

PLO denies role in Rome shooting

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday denied a Libyan accusation that it was responsible for Saturday's shooting of Tripoli's top diplomat in Rome. The PLO news agency, based in Tunis, said the organisation was not involved "from near or far" in the shooting, in which Ammar Al Taggazy was critically wounded. The agency quoted an unidentified official as saying the PLO had not resorted and would not resort to such "terrorist measures." The Libyan news agency JANA charged Saturday that PLO leader Yasser Arafat was behind the shooting. Relations between the PLO and Libya have been strained since Mr. Arafat accused Libya of backing a rebellion within the PLO against his leadership. Last October, the Libyan government abruptly closed all PLO offices and ordered its personnel to leave the country.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"

Volume 9 Number 2471

AMMAN, MONDAY JANUARY 23, 1984, RABIA AL THANI 19, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Hassan leaves for London

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left for London Sunday on a private visit to London, where together with the Duke of Gloucester he is scheduled to open Monday an exhibition on Islamic architecture organised by the Anglo-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

Israelis block Sidon-Tyre road

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops commanded Sunday to block a section of the southern coastal highway between Sidon and Tyre, state-run Beirut Radio reported. It said the Israelis closed the section of the road near Sinniy Bridge, blocking the southern entrance to the city and stranding hundreds of civilians, who were forced to park on the side of the road. There was no clear motive for the Israeli move.

Israel not to attend Cairo fair

CAIRO (R) — Israel, for the second year running, will not take part in Cairo's annual book fair opening on Thursday, Egyptian officials said. Israel had been invited but by the time it replied, there were no longer any stands available. Diplomatic sources, however, said Cairo may have been reluctant to have an Israeli stand at a time when it is slowly rebuilding its ties with the Arab World.

Israeli cabinet approves budget

JERUSALEM (A.P.) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday approved a 1984 budget, including a heavy cut in defence spending, as thousands of workers continued strikes over wages eroded by triple-digit inflation. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said the government unanimously approved the 1.446 trillion shekel (\$20.2 billion) budget for the year beginning April 1.

Israeli strikes continue, page 7

TASS notes U.S. anti-satellite weapon

MOSCOW (A.P.) — The official TASS news agency Sunday noted without comment the first U.S. test-firing of an anti-satellite missile, but quoted others as charging the weapon signals "a new and dangerous round of the arms race".

U.S. tests killer satellite, page 8

ANC accuses U.S. of arming S. Africa

DAR-ES-SALAAM (R) — The banned African National Congress (ANC) has accused the United States of giving armaments including nuclear weapons to South Africa. Tanzania's government-owned Sunday News reported.

U.S. negotiates with Angolan rebels, page 8

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Fighting re-erupts in southern Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese army soldiers and opposition militiamen fought pitched battles in Beirut's southern suburbs Sunday and initial reports said four people, including one soldier, were wounded.

Heavy and light weapons were used in the clashes around the suburbs and slums occupied mainly by Shi'ite Muslims.

State-run Beirut Radio reported that "formations" of U.S. F-14 Tomcat jets scrambled from U.S. carriers off Beirut's coast in reconnaissance flights over the capital and the central mountains. It said four Israeli jets also circled the skies of southern Lebanon, but no bombing runs were reported.

The fighting was the first major confrontation between the regulars and militiamen in the southern suburbs, adjacent to the U.S. Marine base at Beirut International Airport, in almost one month.

The army had battled with militiamen for three days over Christmas for control of positions evacuated by the French troops of the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Lebanon in the Shaita and Sabra refugee camps on the outskirts of Beirut. A ceasefire on Dec. 26 ended the hostilities, with 60 people reported killed and 136 wounded.

Other traditional trouble spots were reported quiet Sunday, and

there was no repetition of Saturday's shelling in which the presidential palace was damaged.

A Falangist radio report that army positions in the mountains east of Beirut came under attack from the Syrian-backed predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias could not be confirmed.

PSP militias Saturday shelled the presidential palace while President Amin Gemayel was presiding over a meeting of academics.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt's residence in the Druze village of Moukhtara, 36 kilometres southeast of Beirut, as well as President Gemayel's palace were hit by artillery and rockets during Saturday's exchanges. Speaking to the Jordan Times Saturday, Mr. Junblatt said, "We will not stop fighting this time unless and until the Gemayel government resigns. Even if it means the complete destruction of Lebanon."

'Situation unbearable'

President Gemayel's father, Pierre Gemayel, the founder and

leader of the predominantly Christian Falange Party, said the situation in Lebanon has become "unbearable."

In a statement broadcast by the Falangist radio, Mr. Gemayel said: "The military escalation carried out by those who have foreign connections against their fellow citizens on an almost daily basis... threatens the nation with grave dangers."

Foreign Minister Elie Salem returned to Beirut Sunday after visiting Paris and London and was expected to brief Mr. Gemayel on talks he had with French and British leaders on the MNF.

Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan also returned after attending the Islamic conference in Casablanca.

French sources in Beirut said Sunday that measures had been taken to ensure the security of French warships off the Lebanese coast.

They declined to give details but confirmed that the precautions were in line with concerns expressed in Washington Saturday that U.S. warships off Lebanon might come under attack from "kamikaze" pilots.

American and French troops of the MNF in Beirut have come under repeated attacks from gunmen and suicide bombers.

Reagan says Marine withdrawal disastrous, page 2

Opponents blame Gemayel for flare-up in violence

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanon's opposition "National Salvation Front" Sunday held President Amin Gemayel, his government and the army responsible for the worsening situation in Lebanon.

The Syrian-backed front said in a memorandum to world bodies and governments, distributed here, that Mr. Gemayel had backed down on his undertakings and had "pushed the Lebanese crisis back to zero point."

The front, which includes Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, former President Suleiman Franjeh and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, said Mr. Gemayel "persisted in attempts to set up one-party rule."

A spokesman for the front said the memorandum had been addressed to the United Nations secretary-general, the gov-

ernments of the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France, the other European Community states and the non-aligned nations.

The National Salvation Front holds President Amin Gemayel, his government and the army responsible for the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. "A front spokesman quoted the memorandum as saying: 'Lebanese opposition representatives meanwhile discussed a new political initiative aimed at bringing back peace to war-ravaged Lebanon, the spokesman said.'

He declined to give details of the initiative but said Mr. Junblatt, who arrived here from Amman earlier Sunday, had been in telephone contact with Saudi Arabia's mediator Rafiq Hariri, who he said was at present in Riyadh.

Arafat visits Algerian camp

PARIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Sunday at Tebessa in eastern Algeria to visit a Palestinian camp there, according to the Algerian news agency APS monitored here.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) arrived from Tunis, to which he returned Saturday from the Islamic summit in Casablanca. Mr. Arafat, accompanied by Abderrazak Moudjida, chief of staff of the Palestinian armed forces, said he was visiting Tebessa to meet fighters evacuated from Beirut and Tripoli.

More than 1,000 Palestinians released by Israel in an exchange of prisoners last year were flown to Algiers and several hundred other Palestinians arrived by boat from Tripoli in December after Mr. Arafat and his loyalist troops were forced out of Lebanon by Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents.



U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Brigadier General James Joy (foreground) Saturday tour the U.S. Marine base at Beirut airport. Mr. Moynihan was on a one-day visit to Beirut to gather information on U.S. intelligence gathering in Lebanon (A.P. wirephoto)

Unknown group claims responsibility for attack on Libyan diplomat

ROME (A.P.) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi's ambassador to Italy battled for his life in a Rome hospital Sunday after unidentified gunmen shot him in an ambush here Saturday.

A caller to the London bureau of the Associated Press said the "Organisation Al Borkan" carried out the attack against Amar Al Taggazy, but police in Rome said they had received no claims.

Italian investigators said they had "no firm leads" in the case. Doctors at Rome's Umberto Hospital told reporters that the 43-year-old diplomat's condition remained "very serious" after two operations late Saturday. One of the three bullets that hit him was still in his brain, they said.

The caller to the A.P.'s London bureau said the group was responsible "for executing the bloody ambassador of Qadhafi."

The group was unknown in London, Rome or Beirut. Al Borkan is the Arabic word for volcano.

Italian news media speculated the shooting may have been a reprisal by followers of Imam Musa Sadr, a leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslims who disappeared after a visit to Libya in 1978.

The Libyans claimed he left Tripoli on Aug. 31 of that year on a Rome-bound flight, but after an investigation, Italian officials were able to come up only with an air-

port customs card bearing his name and his luggage found at a Rome hotel.

Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon at the time accused Col. Qadhafi of seizing the imam as part of a drive to become the supreme leader of the Islamic World. There have been at least a half dozen airplane hijacks by followers of the missing cleric.

A source in Italy's anti-terrorist police said in a telephone interview that the possibility the attack was linked to the missing imam was among a series of hypotheses being considered.

"So far we have no firm leads in the case," said the official, who asked not to be identified by name.

Apparently, there were no witnesses of the attack.

Police sources said neighbours of Mr. Taggazy said they only saw "two elegant young men running" after the attack.

The attackers, according to unconfirmed reports, used at least one silenced-equipped pistol. Mr. Taggazy was shot in the head, the abdomen and in the right arm.

Shultz: Vienna talks to resume

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Sunday that the United States has informed the Soviet Union that it is willing to resume talks on troop reductions in Vienna on March 16. Mr. Shultz said the United States is continuing talks with the Soviets on other arms aspects, even though talks on long-range and short-range nuclear weapons have been suspended. Mr. Shultz, in an interview on the ABC Television programme "This Week with David Brinkley," said Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko made a proposal to resume the talks on troop reductions at a meeting between the two men on East-West security in Stockholm last week. "Mr. Gromyko, when I met with him in Stockholm, suggested that we resume the discussions on the MBFR (Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction), that is, the troop level discussions in Vienna on conventional forces, to resume on March 16... and we've let them know that we think that date is agreeable," Mr. Shultz said.

King, Abu Jihad discuss peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

They discussed different aspects of Jordanian-PLO co-operation and co-ordination in future moves designed to liberate Arab lands, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The audience following another meeting Mr. Wazir had with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat Saturday during which they discussed joint Jordan-PLO political moves in Middle East peace efforts.

King Hussein's meeting with Mr. Wazir, was attended by Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya, PLO's Executive Committee representative in Jordan.

Mr. Wazir has been PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's right-hand man in recent months and was with him throughout the siege of Arafat loyalists by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels in Tripoli, north Lebanon, which ended with the loyalists' evacuation by sea last month.

Mr. Wazir told Reuters Sunday: "We reviewed the developments of the Palestinian revolution in the aftermath of Tripoli, as well as future Palestinian-Jordanian moves in Arab and international arenas that will serve the Palestinian struggle and the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian people."

"Relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples must continue to be strengthened in the coming phase in order to confront the dangers embodied in the permanent aggression of Israel, against the Arab Nation," he added.

He said he and the King discussed resumption of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, which broke down last April.

Mr. Arafat would be coming to Amman to resume the dialogue, Mr. Wazir said, but he added that no date had yet been set.

"Their meeting will herald a new phase in the PLO-Jordan relationship to the benefit of the Palestinian question," Mr. Wazir, deputy commander of all Palestinian forces, stated.

He declined comment when asked if the Reagan Middle East peace initiative was discussed with the King. The Reagan plan called for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

But Mr. Wazir said the King had previously stated that there would be no preconditions for the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, and that all matters would be discussed with an open heart "on the basis of serving the Palestinian struggle and the effectiveness of political moves on all levels."

Earlier this week, Minister of Information Laila Sharaf said Jordan considered the Reagan plan frozen until the U.S. president fulfilled promises he made to get Israeli troops out of Lebanon and freeze the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Asked about his own earlier statements that Palestinian armed struggle against Israel would be escalated, Mr. Wazir stated: "For any political move to be effective, it must be grounded on armed struggle for the purpose of putting pressure on Israel."

"This will tell the whole world that there still is a Palestinian problem."

Soviets maintaining tough stand, diplomats assert

MOSCOW (R) — Despite the talking during the first week of the Stockholm security conference, Moscow has not changed its tough stance on its relations with the West, Western diplomats said Sunday.

Their assessment of the first week of the 35-nation conference on confidence-building measures was backed up by a fresh charge in the Communist Party daily Pravda that Washington's "aggressive policy" made work in Stockholm difficult.

"What Moscow is saying in public is pretty tough, but mixed," one diplomat said. "They are saying they approach the conference seriously, but on the other hand do not fail to blame the tense international situation on the Ame-

ricans."

Pravda said the Soviet Union was prepared to "support any measures to build confidence and strengthen security if they really can facilitate the scaling down of military confrontation."

But let those who decide on trying to use the Stockholm conference to secure themselves unilateral military advantages entertain no such illusions," it said.

Pravda added that Washington's policy did not make it easy to accomplish the tasks facing the conference.

The tone was set last Monday when the official news agency TASS dismissed a speech by President Reagan calling for better relations as propaganda.

Arafat rides over crisis, but faces restricted moves in future

Recently in Tunis, Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lami K. Andoni discussed with Palestinian leaders meeting there the issue of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last month and its implications on the Palestinian front. In the first of two articles, he assesses Mr. Arafat's position as chairman of the PLO following his controversial trip to Egypt and current trends in the Palestinian movement. The second article will appear in tomorrow's Jordan Times.

AMMAN — Results of two weeks of meetings of the Palestinian leadership in the Tunisian capital indicate that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has been able to ride the crises within his Fatah faction, caused by his surprise visit to Egypt last month, but his future political moves will be subjected to restraints by the Palestinian leadership.

Two communiques issued by both the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the biggest Palestinian organisation led by Mr. Arafat, acknowledged the PLO chairman's explanation of reasons behind his visit to Cairo, but stressed that a collective leadership will dominate future political moves of the organisation. The Fatah Central Committee, however, stated that "specific organisational resolutions" have been endorsed to assert a collective leadership, but it did not elaborate on the resolutions.

However, it was the formation of two committees to determine the course of relations with Egypt and Jordan which was seen by both observers and a number of

Central Committee members as major steps to control and to prevent any "unilateral action" such as Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo.

Mr. Salah Khalaf, popularly known as Abu Iyad, the most outspoken opponent of Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo in the Central Committee, told the Jordan Times that the committees were set up to channel contacts with Jordan and Egypt in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) last February in Algiers, "to strengthen the collective leadership and to prevent individual decisions and actions."

Yet, the communiques issued by the Central Committee stopped short of politically condemning Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and this led observers in Tunis and opponents of the PLO chairman within the organisation to accuse the Fatah leadership of "actually supporting" Mr. Arafat's policies.

Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said that the Central Committee's apparent rejection of Mr. Arafat's step is only a manoeuvre to absorb the anger the visit has generated.

But Mr. Khalaf, as well as other members of the Central Committee interviewed by the Jordan Times, assert that the communiques took into consideration the unity of Fatah and the popular support that Mr. Arafat enjoys.

Mr. Khalaf Al-Hassan, a Fatah Central Committee member and a senior advisor to the PLO chairman, said the committee took into consideration that the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied territories have shown support for Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt. In his view, the support is motivated by many reasons, most important of which are "the strong confidence of the Palestinians in Mr. Arafat" and "a strong desire to reach a just solution that might rid them of the Israeli occupation."

Mr. Khalaf said that the Fatah communiques should be best described "as a reflection of the outcome of the various stances within Fatah."

The Palestinian leader might be referring to the fact that although all of the 10 members opposed Mr. Arafat, the PLO chairman turned out to enjoy the backing of most of the 45 members who took part in the Revolutionary Council meetings. Thus, according to another Central Committee member who refused to be named, the communiques was the utmost the Central Committee could have done without risking causing a split within Fatah.

The Fatah movement has already

suffered a split when Syrian-backed rebels against Mr. Arafat's leadership declared a mutiny last May that culminated in bloody clashes around Palestinian refugee camps near the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli and which forced the PLO chairman and 4,000 of his men to leave north Lebanon last month.

Thus, the Fatah source added, the Central Committee was concerned to contain the differences within its constitutional institutions.

Observers in the Tunisian capital who followed the meetings of the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council agreed that even if the communiques did not change the positions from Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo they have succeeded in containing internal differences and to prevent further divisions in Fatah.

The Revolutionary Council has declared that its sessions had concluded and it will reconvene at any time if needed. A member of the Revolutionary Council explained to the Jordan Times that this step was necessary to allow a continuous dialogue of political issues that might arise in a stage where Fatah is called on to outline its future political line.

Fatah unity preserved
Mr. Khalaf, however, expressed

the view that although the communiques have been able to preserve the unity of the Fatah movement, they were not enough to patch the differences between Fatah and other Palestinian factions. He said the Central Committee is concerned to continue the dialogue with the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) to assure the unity of the PLO.

Both the PFLP and DFLP, which boycotted meetings of the PLO Executive Committee in protest to Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo, have called for the resignation of Mr. Arafat as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee — a demand that has been rejected by the Central Committee which offered instead to work out organisational resolutions that assert and strengthen a collective leadership of the PLO. Several meetings between Central Committee members and representative of the two organisations and the Palestine Communist Party, a small faction that is not represented in the Executive Committee, have taken place in Tunis and Algeria over the last two weeks, but have not led to a final reconciliation.

According to several statements issued by both organisations, Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo "indicated a dangerous deviation from the revolutionary line of the PLO" the statement accused Mr. Arafat of "treachery" of the goals of the PLO and of falling into line with "American capitulatory settlements" in

the area.

The Central Committee, however, rejects these accusations and accepts Mr. Arafat's explanation that his visit to Cairo was actually a violation of the Camp David accord as interpreted by Israel and aimed to bring back Egypt to the Arab fold. The Camp David accords signed by Egypt and Israel in 1979 ban Egypt from making contacts with the PLO. Mr. Arafat also reiterated rejection to President Reagan's initiative announced in September 1982 and the Camp David accords. But these statements do not seem enough to convince other left-wing Palestinian organisations who claim that "the visit is part of a plan by the right-wing leadership of Fatah to divert the revolutionary course of the PLO."

Contradictory assertions

In its turn, the Central Committee asserts that the visit made by Mr. Arafat will not have any political consequences. A distinguished Central Committee member, who asked not to be named, told the Jordan Times that the committee aims to "contain the step" and prevent any "entailed political consequences" that might lead the PLO to alter its course.

But while Mr. Khalaf affirms that there will be no contacts with Egypt in the near future until the committee on Palestinian-

Egyptian relations prepares a study on the subject and present it to the PNC, expected to convene next February in Algiers.

Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, a senior advisor to the PLO chairman who is believed to have participated in arranging the meeting between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, disagrees and says that there will be further contacts with Egypt to continue the step taken by Mr. Arafat to "bring back a revolutionary PLO to the Arab World."

The contradiction in the two Palestinian officials' statements reflects the differences in opinion and probably in political perceptions within Fatah. Palestinian observers expect that these differences, that the Central Committee has succeeded to contain within the movement, will interact to come out with the future political line the commando movement.

The polarisation of different political trends and the emergence of a dominant line will be clear in the general congress of Fatah supposed to be held within the coming three months, they added. Resolutions of the congress, according to Mr. Khalaf, will be "the most important in the history of the movement," and will define not only the political strategy of Fatah but also of the PLO. But until then the most important decisions seem to have been frozen and according to PLO officials deferred to the Fatah congress.

U.S. declares security zone around ships

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has declared a five-mile security zone around U.S. ships in the Middle East and warned that terrorists found planning a kamikaze-style attack would be hit first.

The action by the Reagan administration followed reports from the Middle East of moves by groups of suicide-attackers to strike at ships of the Sixth Fleet off Lebanon as well as ships in the Gulf region.

The Defence Department put out an alert Saturday and on Friday warning all aircraft and ships to stay at least five miles from U.S. ships in the region unless given prior clearance to approach them.

Pentagon officials did not say what would happen to foreign ships or planes that ignored the warning. It was expected they would be intercepted by other U.S. ships or by U.S. fighter planes.

A similar warning was issued several weeks ago to cover American ships off Lebanon, which include the battleship New Jersey

French contingent to the Multinational Force.

The Islamic Jihad (holy war) guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Marine barracks and for the death of Dr. Kerr.

But the Reagan administration has laid the blame for the Marine attack on Syria, which it said authorised the bombing.

A Pentagon official who was asked whether any suspect plane would be attacked said the United States "may launch a pre-emptive strike against aircraft believed to be being made ready by terrorists for such attacks on American warships."

U.S. forces in the region have been put on a high alert, according to senior officials in Washington. In Tokyo, the Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) issued a warning to Japanese merchant ships to stay clear of U.S. naval ships in the Gulf and nearby areas.

The Japanese agency said any ships which had to approach within five miles of U.S. military ships there should make advance radio contact.

Australian minister arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden arrived here Sunday on his first official visit to Cairo since he took office 10 months ago.

Egypt is Mr. Hayden's first stop on a Middle East tour which will also take him to Jordan, Israel and Syria. He will later visit several African states.

Australian sources here said Australia's Labour government, which has been seeking closer political and economic links with the Middle East, was keen to gather "first-hand" information on the region.

They added this would be the main theme of Mr. Hayden's talks with officials here and his assessment would help the Canberra government in taking decisions related to the Middle East in the future.

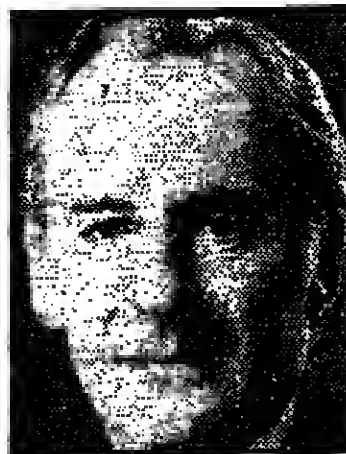
But the sources stressed that

Australia was not seeking a new role in Middle East politics.

Mr. Hayden did a news conference in Canberra Saturday. He did not want to get his role in the Middle East out of proportion, stating he was conscious of the restraints on Australia compared with the superpowers.

The sources said Mr. Hayden was due to meet Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali Monday. He will see President Hosni Mubarak later in the week.

Mr. Hayden will also have talks with Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala for what the sources said would be "an appraisal of Egypt's defence perspective". But they added that arms sales was not on the official agenda.



Bill Hayden

During his stay in Egypt, Mr. Hayden will visit the Australian peace-keeping contingent in Sinai, part of a United Nations force stationed there after Israel's withdrawal from the peninsula in April 1982.

Mr. Hayden is the second senior Australian official to visit Egypt in two months.

Mr. Hayden will leave Egypt on Friday.

Iraq threatens to hit Iranian chemical plant

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (A.P.) — Iraq Saturday threatened to bomb a chemical plant, which officials say is capable of manufacturing some ingredients of explosives, that is being built by about 50 Swedish workers south of Tehran.

The Iraqi threat was delivered to the Swedish government by Baghdad's Charge d'Affaires in Stockholm, Amer Nadjli. The envoy, in an interview with Swedish Television, claimed the unfinished plant, located at Isfahan in central Iran, would produce military material and said that unless the Swedes withdrew it would be

bombed. "Our information is that this industry will produce explosive material and munitions. We do not like that Sweden helps Iran with munitions. Iraq will not be responsible if the plant therefore is bombed and the Swedish workers are endangered," the Iraqi diplomat said.

Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade, Carl Johan Aberg, disputed the charges.

"Our ambassador to Baghdad has personally visited the plant. He reported that it will only produce basic chemicals like sul-

phuric acid and ethanol for use in fertiliser, etc. However, a few of the liquids may be used for production of explosives," Mr. Aberg said.

Experts here said some of the chemical liquids were ingredients for TNT, which is being made by a nearby Iranian plant.

The Iranian envoy said that Iraqi fighter bombers could reach the plant.

The threat was underscored by the fact that the Iraqis previously bombed a Japanese petrochemical plant at Abadan, killing several Japanese workers.

Pakistani president ends Saudi visit

BAHRAIN (R) — President Zia ul Haq of Pakistan left the Saudi Arabian holy city of Medina for home Sunday after performing the minor pilgrimage in Mecca and visiting the tomb of the Prophet Mohammed, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

Mr. Zia, who arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday after attending the Islamic Summit in Morocco, was quoted by the agency as say-

ing the summit had achieved Islamic solidarity and he hoped the Islamic peace committee, of which he is a member, would succeed in ending the 40-month-old war between Iraq and Iran.

He described the resolution to reinstate Egypt as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference as "the most important result achieved by the summit".

On the Afghan issue, he said his

country was now harbouring some three million Afghan refugees to which Pakistan paid one million dollars in aid daily.

But he said half a million dollars were being donated by Islamic countries and the United Nations, the agency said.

He stressed the Afghan problem could not be solved militarily and said a political solution should be found.

Reagan says Marine withdrawal from Beirut would be a disaster

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said in an interview published Sunday he believed it would be a disaster if "terrorists" stirred up public opinion to force a withdrawal of the 1,800 U.S. Marine force in Beirut.

He told the Washington Post that terrorists wanted the Multinational Force out of Lebanon because they cannot succeed in their subversive cause with the force there.

Mr. Reagan added that terrorists were trying to take advantage of criticism in the United States, which has mounted since the truck-bomb deaths of 241 U.S. servicemen on Oct. 23, to force the withdrawal of the Marines.

But the president added in the interview held last Monday that

"it would be disaster if they succeeded."

Mr. Reagan, in the interview marking his third year in office, said he believed the world was a safer place since he entered the White House, but he assessed his domestic economic programme as unfinished.

He was not asked if he planned to run for a second term.

Mr. Reagan did not volunteer any information on his future political plans, although he is widely expected to run again.

He said the Marines in Beirut were still threatened by sniper fire or other attacks, "but all this went on and a great deal of progress was made."

Mr. Reagan said the fact that terrorists were attacking U.S. forces and the French forces there

was proof that the Multinational Force was being successful.

The president took issue with the report by a special commission on the truck-bombing that the mission of the Marines had changed during their deployment in Beirut.

Mr. Reagan said the only incident that could be interpreted as taking part in military action was to support Lebanese armed forces in seizing the hill town of Suq al Gharb from which enemy forces had been attacking the Marine outpost.

He said that was not a change in the Marines' purpose or mission, and that the Marines remained to help Lebanon regain sovereignty after the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces.

UAE envoy leaves Beirut after threat

BEIRUT, Lebanon (A.P.) — The charge d'affaires of the United Arab Emirates has left Lebanon after receiving a threat of kidnapping, sources said Sunday.

Mr. Ibrahim Hassan Saif left Saturday aboard a commercial flight to the UAE along with his family after he took refuge for five days at the West Beirut residence of Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Muslim militia "Amal".

The sources said Mr. Saif received the telephoned threat last Tuesday and immediately took

refuge with his family at Mr. Berri's residence.

No officials at the UAE embassy here were available for comment on the report.

"Many diplomats have received threats and we have expressed our preparation to protect them. Some have accepted while others have preferred to leave," said the spokesman.

An anonymous caller told Mr. Saif last Tuesday that he will be the "next victim after Hussein Abdullah Farrash," the sources said.

Egypt, France discuss military ties

CAIRO (R) — General Geannou Lacaze, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, currently in Egypt on an official visit, Sunday discussed military co-operation with his Egyptian counterpart, General Ibrahim Al Orabi, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported without giving details.

France is one of Egypt's Western arms suppliers. Officials here said the first of 21 French-made Mirage 2000 fighter bombers would join the Egyptian Air Force by the end of this year.

Iranian military activity in Gulf strait said to have declined

MUSCAT (R) — Iranian military activity in the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, which Iran has threatened to close if Iraq blocks Iranian oil shipments, has declined recently, military sources said Sunday.

But they said the Omani navy and air force were maintaining a constant vigil over the 24 mile (40 kilometres) wide strait between Oman and Iran, through which about a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies pass.

The sources said there had been fewer sightings of Iranian warships in the strait, across from an Omani base at Khasab on the barren Musandam peninsula, as well as less Iranian military activity. Tension in the strait rose tow-

ards the end of the last year after Iran threatened to block the waterway if Iraq, its enemy in the 40-month-old Gulf war, used French-supplied Super-Étendard fighter-bombers armed with Exocet missiles to halt Iranian oil movement.

Khasab-based Omani vessels, led by the 400-tonne deadweight tonnage British-made fast attack craft Dhoafar, armed with six Exocet launchers, were continuing to patrol the strait, the sources said.

About 50 merchant ships and tankers pass daily through two narrow deepwater channels in Omani waters.

Oman takes seriously its self-appointed role of "guardian of the strait", but it has said that while it would deal with a threat to the

strait as with any threat to its territory, it would not foot the bill for defending the waterway.

Information Minister Abdulaziz Rowass said last November that those who benefited from the strait as an "artery of international commerce" should help out, with collective Gulf and international action if needed.

The United States, which has pledged to maintain free navigation in the Gulf, is keeping a carrier group comprising about eight vessels in the Arabian Sea, outside the Gulf, the sources said.

There are also five vessels belonging to the U.S. Middle East force, which have spent most of the past few months in the Gulf, according to military sources in the area.

They said the five ships were an anti-submarine frigate, Whipple, the guided missile frigate Schomberg, the destroyers Lawrence and Nicholson and the flag ship, the La Salle, a converted assault vessel that can carry 500 fully armed troops or 1,500 civilians.

There are three British warships — the guided missile destroyer Glamorgan, the frigate Brazen and a royal fleet auxiliary, Blue Rover — in the Gulf area.

Apart from the U.S. naval presence in the area, the sources in Muscat said two U.S. P-3C Orion maritime surveillance planes made sweeps around Hormuz from the military section of Seeb International Airport near the Omani capital.

Oman is building a new base for

its navy at Wudam 'Alwa', about 100 kilometres west of Muscat, military and diplomatic sources said.

The base, costing about 100 million riyals (\$330 million), is expected to be partly operational next year.

The sources said some of the cash was being supplied by other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups Oman with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

The Omani navy at present has several bases, including Muscat, Khasab and Masirah Island in the south east and the government has agreed to allow U.S. forces to use them in any emergency.

100 rebels reported killed, page 8

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION

BBC WORLD SERVICE

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:45 Cartoons
18:05 Children's Programme
18:30 Buck Rogers
19:20 Programmes review
19:30 Local Programme on Jordan Armed Forces
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Local Comedy
22:20 Arabic Variety Programme
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Buffalo Bill
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 Documentary: A Dying Industry
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hart to Hart: Hostage Harts

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM. & 990 MHz. FM
(partly on 95.60 KHz. SW)

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Over a Cup of Tea
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Classical Show Case
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Sports Round-up
18:30 Arabian Nights
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Painter of Signs 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 07:45 Personal Impact 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Just a Minute 08:30 World News 09:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Arthur Rubinstein 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music Now 12:15 Short Story 12:30 Rock Salad 12:50 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 Anna of the Five Towns 13:30 Talking about Music 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Jazz Score 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Country Style 15:45 A Matter for Debate 16:30 The Tone Poets 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 A Talent to Amuse 18:30 A Sense of Place 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Just a Minute 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 The Tiger Trap 21:00 Outlook 21:39 Sport Market Report 21:43 Look Ahead 21:45 Peebles' Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sporting International 23:00 News U.K. 23:15 Anna of the Five Towns 23:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 A Talent to Amuse 01:30 Jazz Score

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 95.65, 11740, 11725 and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour: news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Music USA standards

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.
* Pablo Picasso' paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:30 p.m.

VIDEO

* Video programme starts at American Centre at 4:30 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m.
* French video programme starts at French Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. Music Programme follows at 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41521
British Council 36147-X
French Cultural Centre 37109
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24148
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41763
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843553

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qara (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal

Luneibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916, Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664241.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, SW am.
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luneibdeh, 3741.
De la Saite Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglo-Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 415.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, 71757.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

05:13 Fair
06:35 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:47 Dhuhur
16:30 'Asr
17:01 Maghreb
18:23 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (LEA)
09:05 Amman (RU)
09:30 Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:30 Beirut (RU)
09:45 Doha (RU)
09:45 Beirut (RU)
09:45 Cairo (RU)
09:50 Muscat, Oman (RU)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
12:30 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
14:00 Moscow (SU)
14:00 Kuwait (KAC)
15:00 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
15:35 Belgrade, Istanbul (IU)
16:30 Bangkok (RU)
17:00 Baghdad (LA)
17:05 Athens (RU)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
18:00 Cairo (RU)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
19:05 Cairo (LEA)
20:10 Tunis, Cairo (TU)
20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (LU)
00:35 Cairo (RU)
00:45 Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RU)
06:30 Beirut (RU)
07:00 Amman (RU)
07:30 Damascus, Paris (LAF)
08:00 Cairo (GA)
08:30 Jeddah, Athens (OA)
08:50 Damascus, Geneva, Zurich (SR)
11:45 Vienna, New York (RU)
12:00 Paris, London (RU)
12:15 Geneva, Frankfurt (RU)
12:30 Istanbul, Bucharest (RU)
13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Cairo (RU)
15:20 Moscow (SU)
15:40 Kuwait (KAC)
16:25 Istanbul, Belgrade (IU)
16:30 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
18:00 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

19:30 Kuwait, Doha (RU)
19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RU)
19:40 Jeddah (RU)
20:05 Cairo (EA)
20:15 Baghdad (RU)
20:30 Cairo (RU)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils
Belgian franc 65.4 / 65.5
Dutch guilder 118.4 / 119.1
Egyptian guinea 324.3 / 333.3
French franc 43.5 / 43.8
Iraqi dinar 375 / 383.3
Italian lire (for 100) 21.9 / 22.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 160.1 / 161.1
Kuwaiti dinar 1273.3 / 1280
Lebanese lira 64.9 / 66.2
Omani rial 1078.3 / 1085
Omani rial 1078.3 / 1085
Saudi riyal 102.6 / 103.1
Saudi riyal 102.6 / 103.1
Swedish crown 117.1 / 117.6
Swiss franc 167.6 / 168.6
Syrian lira 55.5 / 56.8
U.A.E. dirham 102.1 / 102.6
U.K. sterling pound 52.7 / 528.4
U.S. dollar 375.5 / 377.5
W. German mark 139.2 / 134

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with above average summer temperature and light and variable winds. In Agaba, winds will be non-herly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.
Amman 11/5
Agaba 8/21
Oases 11/6
Jordan Valley 7/20

Yesterday's high temperature readings: Amman 45 per cent. Agaba 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance (03) 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 21943-3
Police rescue 192, 2111, 35177
Police headquarters 36141
Traffic police 56394-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-N
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Akil Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Al-Jalal, J. Amman 36141
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Musah Hospital 667227-8
The Islamic, Abdali 665232
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 77111-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 666412
Army, Marka 41611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali As'ad 97919

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (Double Red) 400 / 350
Apple (Golden) 400 / 350
Apple (Starline) 400 / 350
Apple (Sunkist) 450 / 400
Apple (local) 250 / 180
Banana 270 / 220
Banana (Mukammal) 230 / 210
Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 60 / 40
Carrot 150 / 120
Cauliflower (white) 180 / 150
Cucumber (large) 250 / 180
Cucumber (small) 350 / 280
Dates 180 / 150
Eggplant (large) 90 / 60
Eggplant (small) 180 / 130
Figs 400 / 300

Dr. Anif Ali Dabbas 668384
Grand Arabian pharmacy 24028
Al Jalaal pharmacy 24251
Yasir pharmacy 51822
Assaf pharmacy 53381
Al Rawabdeh pharmacy 666033

Taxi no. 44660
Jerusalem taxi 49635
Tamer taxi 666417
Khaled taxi 23715
Kurdi taxi 841309
Wadiah taxi 812454

IRBID

Dr. Mohammed Ali Daradeh (Belal Str.)
Ibn Sina pharmacy 2615

ZARQA:

Dr. Yahia Hajjir 84354
Jaber Ibn Hayyan pharmacy (---)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 66612
Price complaints 66176
Telephone:
Jordan and Middle East calls 12
Overseas calls 17
Cable or telegram 18
Repair service 11

Handwritten signature or mark.

g Mesh

Jordan Times

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 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
 Telephone: 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

A need to face reality

THE worsening situation in Lebanon calls for an honest and objective reassessment of all the efforts that have been made so far to save the country from total chaos and collapse. It is never enough to blame the failures on the complexity of the situation and the extreme difficulties facing the peace-makers.

There is a reality to be faced here. Whether we like it or not, this reality calls on the Lebanese to put their house in order first, and then everybody should move to tackle the issue of foreign occupation of the country.

For some reason, the Lebanese president, Mr. Amin Gemayel, seems unable until now to prevail on the opposed Lebanese factions to either settle their internal differences or agree on a common strategy to get the non-Lebanese forces to withdraw from Lebanon. Of course there could be more than one reason for Gemayel's inability to tackle the two issues at once, but the fact that he has not succeeded yet indicates there is something basically wrong with his policy, which has to be changed if progress is to be made, or that even a start had not been made.

The Lebanese president has to prove himself the leader of all the Lebanese, and not just a representative of one faction. To do this, he needs to work harder, even fight, for a more equitable formula of power sharing among the Lebanese by which the Maronites of his father's party will not be the dominant faction by either birthright or force anymore. He also needs to understand the difference between the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and the Syrian presence in the Bekaa Valley and the north; in the end both the Syrian and Israeli armies have to leave Lebanon for the Lebanese, but for all that could be said now the Israelis are the biggest obstacle to peace and they should get out of Lebanon without any prior conditions.

On the other hand, the opposition parties and their Syrian backers have to understand that their higher interests can only be served by preserving the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon — and away from foreign intervention and interference.

While all Lebanese must continue the search for a political settlement to their crisis through accommodation and understanding, they must realise that time is not on their side. The responsibility of the peace-makers remains, as it should have always been, to help Lebanon along the path of peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Message of determination

ON THE occasion of his recovery from illness, King Hussein Saturday renewed a pledge that Jordan will never abandon its kinsmen on the occupied West Bank who are now under the yoke of Israeli occupation rule. King Hussein, in his message to the nation, said that he will exert every effort to safeguard the freedom of the Arab inhabitants and liberate Arab lands and holy places. This pledge is a reaffirmation of Jordan's stand with regard to the occupied Arab lands and a blow to those who launch harmful campaigns against the country.

It is a clear national policy of working towards saving the Palestine cause from being frozen or transformed into a second degree of importance on the international arena.

The people of this country, grouping Palestinians and Jordanians, will work together and exert all efforts to save our steadfast kinsmen. King Hussein's message to the nation reflects the country's determination to abide by this policy until our national aspirations are fulfilled.

Al Dustour: Part of the nation

KING HUSSEIN's message to the nation was characterised by warm feelings and deep affection. The people of this country, whether Jordanians or Palestinians, realise this fact and feel that everybody in the message represents the true feeling of the sovereign who has shared with his people the joys and sorrows over the years. King Hussein considers the citizens of this country as brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers, and voices his pride in belonging to the united family of Jordan who know too well the meanings of affection which has always marked the King's actions designed to serve his people and nation.

In other countries, the kings envelop themselves with an atmosphere of awe and splendour which isolate them from their nations. In Jordan, monarchy is part of the nation's fabric and has devoted itself to serving the people fighting in its ranks and striving for building up the country and achieving progress and prosperity for all. It is because of this attitude that the relationship between King Hussein and his people has been more and more strengthened and cemented. It is because of these noble qualities that we look to the sovereign with respect, affection and loyalty.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. obstructionism

WASHINGTON'S REJECTION of a proposal by the U.N. secretary-general for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East in which all parties to the conflict can take part is regarded as a stumbling block in the search for peace. America is hoping against hope to revive the Camp David accords by obstructing other initiatives aimed at a true and comprehensive peace. Disregarding the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, it cannot help the cause of stability and security of this region but will further entrench the elements of fear, and the dangers of war.

The Arabs have made their voice clear at the Fez Arab Summit when they called for the establishment of peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Crown Prince Hassan echoed this call in his statement published Saturday. He said that peace should not be monopolised by one superpower and the region's nations should be allowed to shape their own future helped by other countries big or small. In his statement to Sawt Al Shaab Sunday, the prime minister referred to the European role which too can help bring about peace to this region, especially because Europe is strategically linked with this region and closely connected with its interests.

Stockholm: Poor prospects for a return to Geneva

By David Mason
 Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — So far, there has been little sign of renewed progress toward superpower détente at the European Disarmament Conference in Stockholm.

The first priority of the conference is establishing new confidence-building measures to lessen the risk of war. Countries represented here are the United States and Canada, the Soviet Union and all of Eastern and Western Europe, with the exception of Albania.

But during the opening days of the conference, when foreign ministers were on hand, the sup-

erpowers were the focus of attention.

The main hope of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his NATO allies was that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko would give a hint of readiness to return to the Geneva negotiations to reduce European stockpiles of medium- and long-range nuclear missiles.

The Soviets abandoned the medium-range talks Nov. 23 after NATO began deploying new American missiles in Western Europe, and Moscow refused Dec. 8 to set a date for resuming the long-range missile talks.

Western delegates looked to the conference setting as an opportunity for dissolving some of the

East-West tension.

But Mr. Gromyko, in his 27th year as foreign minister, delivered one of his most aggressive speeches, declaring that the main threat to peace is "the aggressive foreign policy of the United States."

His speech made clear the Soviet Union has no intention of returning to the medium-range missile talks because of the NATO deployments.

Mr. Shultz, who earlier said the United States "does not recognise the legitimacy of the artificially-imposed division of Europe by the Soviet Union," held a marathon five-hour and 10-minute meeting with Gromyko. Mr. Shultz said later he had "nothing positive to report" on the stalled missile

talks.

Mr. Gromyko, 74, kept one of the busiest schedules of the ministers at the conference, seeing during his four days here not only Mr. Shultz but most of the NATO foreign ministers in private sessions. Most of the ministers who talked to reporters after the sessions said they saw few signs of any warming in the East-West climate.

The sessions were described as "candid" or "businesslike," diplomatic euphemisms for tough talking.

Beyond the conference chill, there appeared to be rough going ahead for the actual conference agenda.

The West interpreted the conference mandate as a search for

new confidence-building measures concerning conventional military forces. Nuclear issues, the West argues, should be reserved for other settings.

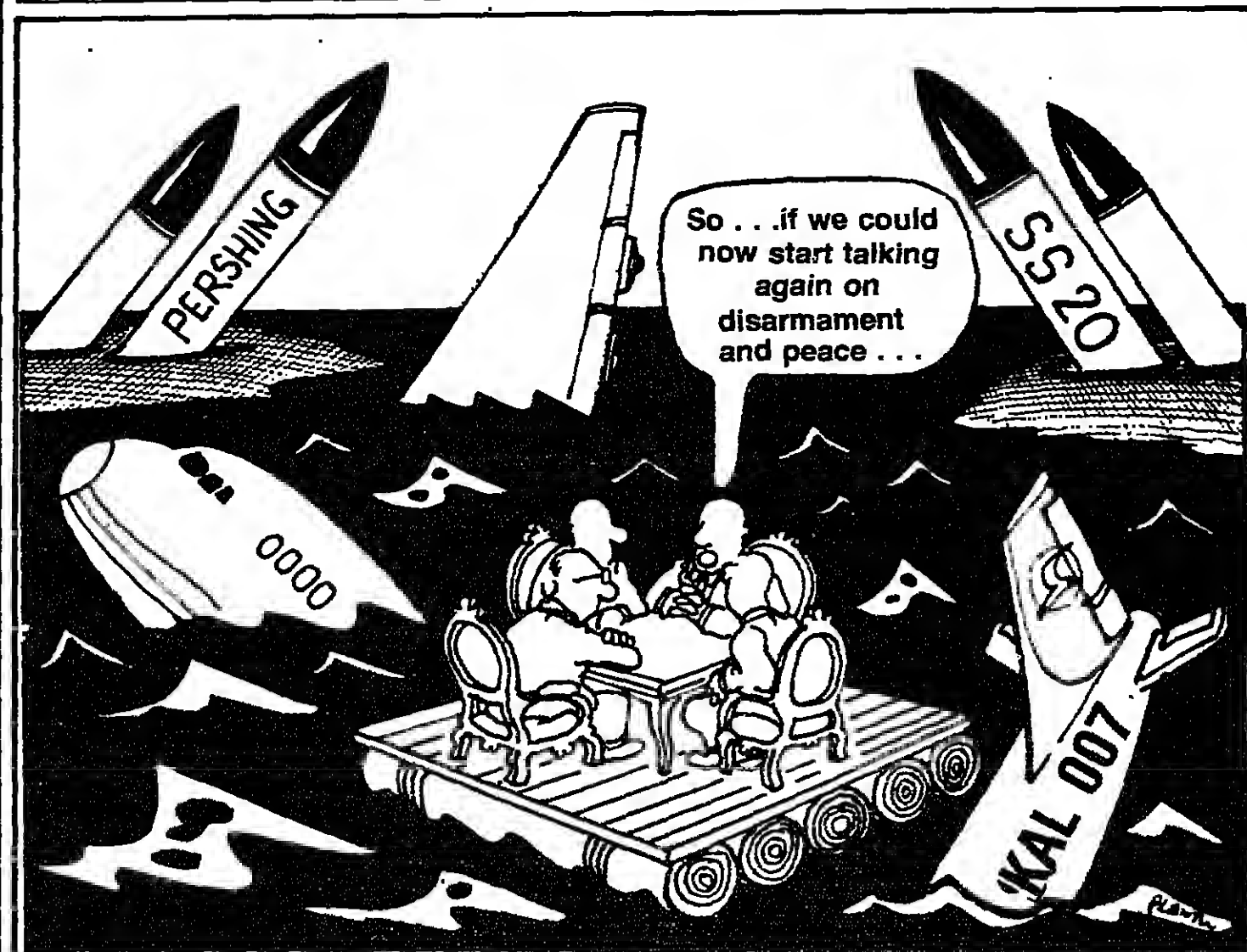
But Mr. Gromyko and Warsaw Pact allies announced to some astonishment of the Western delegations that they wanted to talk in Stockholm about agreements against first-use of nuclear weapons and about nuclear-free zones. Because both had been proposed previously and rejected by the West, they threaten to bog down the conference.

The only ray of light in the early days of the conference was a still imprecise indication from Mr. Gromyko to several NATO min-

isters that he would be prepared for an early resumption of the Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces in Central Europe. The Soviet Union refused at the Dec. 15 recess of the decade-old talks to set a new date for resumption of the discussions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's foreign secretary, was philosophical about the progress made so far. He told reporters:

"I think one has to be very cautious in pronouncing snap judgements even after a week that climatic conditions at least in this context take a very long time to change and to change on a durable basis. ... it's bound to be a long-term business."



Israeli arms sales to C. America prosper

By Ethan Bronner
 Reuter

TEL AVIV — The seizure in Florida of 12,000 rifles going from Israel to Guatemala has highlighted the Israel's growing role in Central America as an arms supplier to right-wing regimes.

An arms industry source said Israel recently signed a number of major contracts with El Salvador, where the activities of right-wing "Death Squads" have met with severe international condemnation.

U.S. Congressional restraint on American arms sales to countries with poor human rights records such as Guatemala has expanded a market for the Israeli industry, which needs to export in order to thrive.

Abba Eban, foreign affairs spokesman for Israel's opposition Labour Party, says he imagines American officials are pleased to see governments such as San Salvador's receiving Israeli arms. But he is bitterly opposed to the sales.

"I didn't enjoy a statement by an American official that appeared in Time magazine: 'The Israelis are good surrogates because they don't have a human rights problem.' I think we must have a human rights problem," he told Reuters in an interview.

Israeli experts on Central America say Israel has assumed a higher profile in the region since the right-wing Likud coalition came

to power in 1977 under Menachem Begin.

"Incentives for immediate pay-offs have involved Israel in assuming a more interventionist role in the area," says Edy Kaufman, professor of Latin American studies at Hebrew University's Truman Institute.

He suggests that one payoff is closer ties with Washington although other experts here deny that, saying Israel would bow to U.S. requests for restraint but is selling arms for almost purely commercial gain.

Government officials refuse to discuss arms sales, insisting in background briefings that Israel's posture in Central America is as it ever was, friendly, co-operative, pro-democratic.

But Mr. Eban says it is clear that things have changed in recent years. "I would like to go back to our characteristic posture, more economic, social and agricultural work and rather fewer guns," he said.

Nathaniel Lorch, former ambassador to several Latin American countries and a former deputy director-general at the foreign ministry, is among those who scorn the idea that Israel sells arms to Central America as part of a grand political scheme.

"Lots of countries sell arms to Latin America. The basic aim of arms sales is to sell arms," he said.

But Mr. Lorch acknowledged that Israel, which "prides itself on being a democracy," sometimes

finds itself in the company of right-wing dictatorships.

"As long as the Soviet Union is our most outspoken enemy, we've found ourselves in alliances with right-wing dictatorships. But our most intimate relations are with other democracies," he said.

Mr. Kaufman also sees the Soviet Union's hand in this issue. "A broader strategic view would interpret Israel's military and security ties in Latin America as a service to the United States' interests. This is perceived as a positive development which strengthens the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel," he said.

He added: "Stressing the Cuban-Nicaraguan connection with the Soviet Union and the close ties of the Arab rejectionist front with Moscow makes the equation simple. Israel joins Washington in a Western, anti-Communist front."

He believes Central American countries such as El Salvador also see the triangular relationship as providing them with prestige and legitimacy in Washington, especially within the Jewish community, which has traditionally been critical of the human rights records of those regimes.

El Salvador has been promising for several months to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as a gesture of close ties. The only foreign embassy in Jerusalem, which most countries do not recognise as Israel's claimed capital, is Costa

Rica's.

Israeli officials say they are worried by increased Arab diplomatic activity in Central America.

The left-wing Sandinist government in Nicaragua cut diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1982 Lebanon war and officials here blame it on the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is well-represented in Managua.

They say the PLO trained Sandinist guerrillas in Lebanon when they were working to overthrow Nicaraguan Dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The fact that Israel had been a prominent arms supplier of Somoza until his overthrow also did little to endear the new Sandinist government to the Israeli authorities.

Professor Kaufman says: "The overall decline of Latin American support to Israel is to a large extent related to the growing presence of Arab representation in the region."

Such a growth began in the early 1960s with the establishment of an Arab League office in Buenos Aires.

Latin America had been instrumental within the United Nations in pressing for the establishment of Israel in 1948. Through the late 1960s all Latin American countries, including Cuba, maintained full diplomatic relations with Israel, despite the Soviet Union having broken off ties in 1967.

Congressman Rahall thinks U.S. has gone too far for Arabs

By Susan Saporito

Shultz agreement.

HOUSTON — "We are entering a new era in Middle East politics," commented Congressman Nick J. Rahall, 11 (D-W. Va.) at a recent American-Arab Affairs Council symposium.

"The deaths of over 230 Marines in Beirut and the bombing of our American Embassy in that city as well as efforts to have our Marines removed completely from Lebanon, have no doubt fueled the emotions of those who do not understand U.S. motives for commitment to this region and to its people," he said.

This new era, said Mr. Rahall, will have to include a change in the way the Reagan administration views the Middle East conflict.

"To the president, it's all an East-West confrontation, with Syria nothing more than puppet of the Soviets. I don't believe the situation is quite that simple," he said. "And I totally reject efforts by this administration to make it look like a simple East-West confrontation."

Mr. Rahall said this ideology was reflected in President Reagan's Oct. 27 speech to the nation after the bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut.

"He paid tribute to those who died," Mr. Rahall stated. "He expressed frustration at dealing with the Middle East situation. And he outlined American responsibility to keep the peace."

It should also be noted that Mr. Reagan fixed blame to that speech. He fixed blame squarely on the Arab world: every statement planned for the next presidential election.

"Reagan said, and I quote from that speech: 'Sixteen months ago we were watching on our TV screens the shelling and bombings of Beirut which was being used as a fortress of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bands. Hundreds and hundreds of civilians were being killed and wounded in daily battles. Syria, which make no secret about its claim that Lebanon should be part of greater Syria is occupying a large part of Lebanon today. Syria has become a home for 7,000 Soviet advisers and technicians and a massive amount of Soviet weaponry, including SS-21 ground-to-ground missiles capable of reaching vital areas of Israel.'"

Nowhere did Reagan mention why our Marines were asked to go to Beirut or why our Marines were committed to Beirut in the first place.

Why blame Syria?

Instead of placing blame for the senseless deaths of innocent men, women and children where it properly belonged (on Israel), the president carefully made it look like Syria was leveling Beirut with its daily bombardments, Mr. Rahall said.

Mr. Rahall said U.S. Marines were sent to Lebanon in the first place to invoke calm "after the havoc and war that was initiated by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the massacres that were allowed to take place in Palestinian camps under their noses."

The problems in Lebanon were compounded, said Mr. Rahall, when the United States neglected to consult Syria before the finalisation of the Lebanon-Israel withdrawal agreement.

"I believe it was one of the most idiotic, blatant goofs in U.S. diplomatic history," he commented. "Is it any wonder that the president of Syria has turned his back on this agreement? I think not."

Mr. Rahall also suggested that the recent agreement to provide closer U.S. military co-operation with Israel was contrived for the personal goals of Secretary of State George Shultz.

Our Secretary of State wants revenge on Syria by closer military co-operation with Israel. He wants to get back at Syria for President Hafez Assad's affront and neglecting what I believe our secretary of state thinks is a Camp

Ignoring realities

The United States for too long has erred in neglecting the major parties in the Middle East, said Mr. Rahall. To ignore any major Arab player in the arena of Middle East politics is to ignore reality, he said.

If the Congress wants the Gemayel government to include more factions in its power base, Mr. Rahall said, then the U.S. administration should be prepared to include the major players in Middle East politics when we undergo negotiations.

However, Mr. Rahall added, Mr. Gemayel must remember that the power of Lebanon must be distributed in an even and just way.

Mr. Gemayel must remember he was elected president of the entire state of Lebanon, not of the Falangist Party, and that all interests of Lebanon must be the first consideration.

Input from Congress can help to moderate U.S. foreign policy and make it more reflective of the will of the American people, Mr. Rahall said.

Congress to have a say

"Congress should not be willing to sit back and be a mere witness to the formation of our American foreign policy. For Congress to be more assertive does the American interests more good," he said.

Mr. Rahall commented that a newly-formed ad hoc advisory committee on Lebanon composed of 12 congressional representatives that meets weekly with the secretaries of the state and defense, the national security adviser and others in the administration "is very good, because it will keep the administration accountable to the American people and to the U.S. Congress as to what our policy is and what America's best interests in the area are."

Regarding U.S. aid to Israel, Mr. Rahall quoted former Secretary of State George Ball in asking: "Should we continue to spend American taxpayers' money to subsidize activities and frustrate our diplomacy and damage our hopes for peace in the Middle East? I would answer no and that is how I voted in the U.S. Congress. That's what it's going to take in the Congress — votes and an education of the American voter," Mr. Rahall said.

Unjustified aid

Commenting on the recent continuing resolution passed by Congress which allows for \$2.6 billion in economic aid to Israel, Mr. Rahall said not only is it difficult to understand why the United States constantly "rewards Israel" for defying U.S. demands, but it also is difficult to understand the United States' decision to supply funds for the production of the Lavi jet fighter in direct competition with U.S. industry. "Indeed it will cost the U.S. jobs because normally such equipment is produced in America," he said. Mr. Rahall also indicated that increasing levels of aid to Israel on the grounds its security is being threatened has sometimes been unfounded.

A GAO secret report made public did show that within the highest levels of the Pentagon, they firmly believe that Israeli claims that they are surrounded by their Arab enemies and that they fear they would be attacked by their enemies are exaggerated to a great degree, he said.

"Israel is an ally of the U.S.," Mr. Rahall said. "But it should not be our only ally. There are others who want to be our friends. But my gosh, if we keep pushing them up against the wall, when we keep ignoring them, slapping them in the face by the actions we take in favour of one particular country, how much can they take and still want to be our friends?" — Arab News, Jeddah.

Big row over abortion bill in Portugal

By Clare Lovell
 Reuter

LISBON — Less than 18 months after parliament voted against the legalisation of abortion, the issue has returned to threaten Portugal's government coalition.

Both the opposition Communist Party, and the Socialist Party which leads the government coalition, have introduced abortion bills for approval later this month, once again stirring debate throughout the country.

Portugal and Ireland, both predominantly Catholic, are the only countries in Europe where abortion is illegal.

The Socialist bill, more restricted than that of the Communists, is the one that has sparked the controversy, with many critics branding it a half-way measure.

Many members of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), partners in the seven-month-old coalition, whose support lies largely in the conservative and strongly Cat-

holic north, say it could lead to a government rift.

The president of the Azores regional government and a well-respected PSD leader, Joao Mota Amaral, declared recently that his party should have nothing to do with the bill.

If it is passed the PSD "should purely and simply pull out of the coalition", Mr. Mota Amaral, a member of the conservative lay Catholic Opus Dei Group, said.

The bill is mild compared to those passed in other European countries over the past 20 years.

It provides not for the legalisation of abortion but for an absence of punishment in cases such as danger to the mother's life, foetal deformity and pregnancy as the result of rape.

"Abortion is always and intrinsically an evil", the introduction to the Socialist bill states, adding that the new legislation takes into account the fact that "its practice has grown in socially alarming terms."

Its supporters say it is aimed at

cutting the number of illegal abortions performed in Portugal, often by unskilled people in unhygienic and dangerous conditions.

But women's groups say that until abortion is freely and legally available, the back-street operations will continue because of the stigma and shame associated with it.

"We will support any bill aimed at legalising abortion, not depenalising it, which is no help at all", a spokeswoman for the Democratic Women's Movement (MDM), the leading Portuguese women's rights group, said.

The MDM estimates that some 200,000 illegal abortions are carried out every year in this country of 10 million people, and Communist Deputy Zita Seabra said hundreds of women die or are left sterile and permanently psychologically damaged as a result.

The Communist bill legalises abortion along the lines of many other European countries; if the mother's physical or mental health is endangered, if she is pregnant as

the result of rape or incest, if the foetus is deformed or if there are severe social or economic problems in the family.

In November 1982, parliament voted against the same Communist-sponsored bill, but the Socialists, then in opposition, voted with the Communists.

Socialist Party sources said although the vote was free, Socialists were unlikely to vote for the Communist bill this time. They would vote in favour of their own, toned down to try to appease their coalition partners, and abstain in the Communist vote.

Meanwhile the PSD, many of whose deputies privately agree with both bills, is caught between loyalty to a solid coalition with the biggest parliamentary majority since the revolution, and pressure from Catholic voters.

In a recent pastoral letter Portuguese bishops warned their congregations that the punishment for abortion was excommunication and appealed to deputies to throw out both bills.

Space exploration has rendered multi-faceted aid to an increasingly-demanding mankind

Affecting the routine existence of most people

By Daniel Deudney

The space venture of the past 25 years has been one of mankind's most striking technological accomplishments. Now, as Daniel Deudney outlines in this article, exploration in nearby space is giving way to increasingly routine, commercial activities. Satellites aid in weather prediction, crop assessment, mineral exploration, global communication, and contribute to further probing of the solar system and the universe. "Only a handful of human beings have ever been in space," writes Deudney, "yet space activities now affect the routine existence of most people."

SPACE IS humanity's high frontier. Like all frontiers, space has produced unexpected treasures, generated strong enthusiasm, spawned wild speculations and been enshrouded in myth and false promise. After a quarter of a century spent opening this frontier, it is time to assess whether these efforts have helped solve some of the world's problems. Today space is the arena for both exciting exploration and economic exploitation. The many satellites orbiting the Earth have a wide variety of functions, such as hurricane warning, observation of distant galaxies, business communications and crop forecasting. These and other space activities affect a surprisingly diverse and rapidly growing range of human concerns in ways that were scarcely imagined a few decades ago.

In the struggle to protect the Earth from overpopulation, ecological degradation and resource depletion, space has a great, largely unfulfilled role to play. It can be valuable not as a source of energy or materials, nor as a place to house the world's growing population, but rather as a tool to assist problem solving on Earth. Orbiting satellites could be indispensable instruments in the scientific quest to understand how the planet's atmosphere, oceans and life forms interact, and how they react to the stresses being placed on them. Knowledge of these global systems is vital for a prudent response to such emerging global problems as carbon dioxide buildup, ozone depletion and desertification. Satellites are already used to monitor forest and crop growth, weather patterns, mineral deposits and pollution sources.

Keeping space in perspective is difficult. Space is not a technology, a programme or a cause — it is a place. Only a handful of human beings have ever been there, yet space activities affect the routine existence of most people. Space is far closer than most people are to their own national capitals, but it is so vast that in it the Earth is only an insignificant speck of dust. By asking how space activities affect life on Earth, a sense of human perspective can be maintained.

Because space is so unlike anything experienced on Earth, it is

tempting to believe that earthly problems — resource conflict, pollution, scarcity — can somehow be left behind. Unfortunately humans have carried these problems with them. The most valuable areas of space near the Earth are increasingly plagued by very earthlike, human conflicts and scarcities. Political, not technological, skills will be required to solve them. The inescapably global space environment provides a logical arena for cooperation among nations — which will be valuable both in its own right and as a prototype for terrestrial coexistence.

Space begins where the Earth's atmosphere trails off into a vacuum some 80 to 160 kilometres above ground. For human beings space is an overwhelmingly harsh and alien environment. Without the moderating effects of air the sunlight is unbearably intense and areas in shadow are frigid. If exposed to the vacuum of space, humans would quickly die. These voids around the Earth are also washed by various forms of radiation that would be lethal to a person without extensive shielding. Only by devising ways to travel great speeds and withstand extreme environmental stresses have people been able to explore space. Once objects are out there, they can indefinitely maintain the 29,000-kilometres-an-hour speed that is needed to stay in space without the friction of the air slowing them down or burning them up. But leaving and reentering the Earth's atmosphere is quite difficult. Gaining the speeds necessary to overcome the Earth's gravity requires large amounts of energy. And reentering the atmosphere without burning up requires extraordinary materials capable of withstanding the metal-melting temperatures generated as objects fall through air.

Humans have dreamed of travelling to celestial bodies for millennia. Isaac Newton first realised that an object travelling fast enough could — like the moon — achieve a balance between the pull of the Earth and its own momentum to achieve permanent orbit around the Earth. Not until the first decades of the 20th century were the technical problems of building rockets to overcome the Earth's

gravity solved. The three undisputed fathers of rocket science — the foundation of all space exploration and use — are Russian mathematician Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, American physicist professor Robert Goddard and German engineer Hermann Oberth. These men independently and almost simultaneously made a string of important technical advances and a wide range of remarkably accurate predictions.

The communication satellite industry has integrated itself into terrestrial systems and pioneered highly successful international cooperative organisations, creating for the first time in history a genuinely global communications network.

The real beginning of the Space Age was the October 1957 launch of the satellite Sputnik into orbit. In the more than quarter century since then, well over 90 per cent of all space activities have been carried out by the United States and the Soviet Union. From the modest beginnings in the late 1950s, the space programmes of both countries burgeoned into major programmes in military and space science, communications, lunar and planetary exploration, and remote sensing of the Earth, as well as the manned orbital and lunar missions that have captured public attention. Today slight over 4,000 artificial "moons" orbit the Earth, with some 250 of them still operating. Space has become an arena of increasingly routine, commercial activities even as breathtaking discoveries continue.

In addition to the direct benefits of space exploration there are also many spin-offs — technologies discovered in the process of exploring space that have found application in unrelated human activities on Earth. These range in significance from freeze-dried orange juice and heat-resistant materials to sophisticated sensors. U.S. scientists trying to put computers into the cramped space of a rocket nose cone turned semiconductor from a scientific oddity into the basis of a multimillion-dollar industry that is profoundly altering many spheres of life on Earth. Similarly, photovoltaic cells, a technology that may someday dramatically enhance the world's energy prospects, were first developed for commercial use by U.S. scientists to supply satellites with electric power. Foil and plastic laminates and strong resilient sealants have also been put to use in energy conservation efforts and pump design.

The discovery of very valuable technologies during space research programmes does not mean,

of course, that they would not exist otherwise. Yet there is no denying that having to adapt to the peculiar demands of the space environment has led to ingenious new technologies. The spin-offs from space programmes typically use fewer physical inputs to yield higher performance. In a world that must wring more out of less, the lessons to be learned in the space environment could be particularly valuable ones.

The most valuable contribution space activities have made is the information they have provided about the universe and about the Earth. From a lofty vantage point, scientists are learning answers to some critical life-and-death questions about the Earth — how the atmosphere, oceans, sunlight and life forms interact to make the planet habitable and how human actions are altering those systems. Beyond invaluable lessons about the mechanics of "spaceship Earth," space activities are emerging as vital tools in the management of terrestrial systems and resources.

Thus far the biggest scientific advances from space exploration have been in astronomy and related sciences. The scientific investigation of space has centered on sending probes, and, in the case of the moon, people, to other parts of the solar system. Probes landed on Venus and Mars gave scientists firsthand information about the surface and atmosphere of these planets, and provided a strong indication that they do not harbour life. And the recent U.S. Pioneer and Voyager missions transmitted thousands of spectacular high-quality close-up photographs of Jupiter and Saturn and their many moons.

The American lunar landings represented the high point of human journeying into space, not likely to be surpassed for many decades to come. Machines, not humans, have been and will continue to be the principal explorers of the solar system. The instruments sent to the moon were of more scientific importance than the astronauts' reports. As robots become even cheaper and more versatile in the years ahead, the justification for sending people into space could diminish still further.

There are many other objects in the solar system that scientists want closer looks at — notably asteroids, comets and the moons of Jupiter and Saturn — but planetary probes are increasingly hard to finance. As these deep-space voyages taper off, a series of powerful observation systems that will be placed in Earth's orbit but trained on distant objects will be the centre of scientific attention.

The most exciting of these will go into operation in 1986 when the U.S. shuttle places into orbit a telescope 2.5 metres in diameter. Although there are larger telescopes on mountaintops on Earth, their observational powers are limited by the distorting effects of the atmosphere. The space telescope will be able to detect objects 50 times fainter than ground-based telescopes can, and will expand the observable volume of space 350 times. Many astronomers believe this new window on the universe will revolutionise their science, allowing, for example, the detection and observation of planets around other stars.

Spending money to explore the universe has sparked controversy between those who believe more pressing needs exist on Earth and those who seek knowledge. Unlike "pure" science on Earth, which often yields some practical benefit later, astronomical discoveries are a particularly pure form of knowledge. Space exploration has, however, spawned two new sciences — comparative planetology and exobiology, the study of life elsewhere in the universe. Practitioners of these nascent sciences argue that learning how other planets evolved will yield insights into the evolution and fate of the Earth. Pointing out that scientific knowledge is a group of generalities from many case studies, comparative planetologists and exobiologists question whether the knowledge of a planet — the Earth — can ever be firmly scientific when it is based on an exhaustive study of only one example. Thus the hellish surface temperature of Venus, the result of an atmosphere of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, is a partial case study of what the Earth could be like if the "greenhouse effect" runs wild. The storm clouds on the fast-rotating planet Jupiter give scientists information on the effects of rotation speeds on weather patterns which is unobtainable on Earth.

Beyond such intriguing tidbits comparative planetology has yet to gain human understanding of the Earth, perhaps because scientists need to look more closely at the Earth's sister planets, or perhaps because those planets are not very much like Earth. On the theoretical side, however, James Lovelock, the inventor of a trace-element monitoring technology widely used in pollution assessment, came up with a systematic reinterpretation of life's role in the evolution of the Earth — the Gaia Hypothesis — while designing the life detection experiments for the Mars Viking Lander spacecraft. The Gaia



Pioneer 10 past the orbit of Neptune

hypothesis holds that life has transformed the Earth to suit its needs rather than adapting to the Earth. By thinking about how to detect life on Earth just by analysing its atmosphere, Lovelock was led to a reconceptualisation of life's interaction with its physical environment that is opening important new avenues of research in ecology, paleontology and pollution control.

Space's biggest boost to knowledge of humanity's home may come from looking more clearly and directly at the Earth itself, rather than at other, vaguely similar planets. Progress in sciences of the Earth as a whole — oceanography, climatology and geology — is intimately linked with human concerns such as weather patterns, fisheries potential, pollution assessment, earthquake warning and mineral exploration. For these, observation satellites are vital because the objects of their study — the oceans, the atmosphere and the landmass — operate on a planetary scale. Before satellites, scientists had to be content with scattered observations from ships, weather balloons and aerial photographs. Now for the first time they can actually see what they are studying. One major hurdle for all the earth sciences has been assimilating the sheer volume of satellite data — often thousands of times more than from traditional sources — into existing models and theories. Ultimately, observation satellites could be as important to oceanography, climatology and geology as the microscope was to microbiology, or the telescope to astronomy.

Of the three earth sciences, climatology and geology have been most affected thus far. Satellites have been indispensable in monitoring the thin upper layers of the atmosphere and the trace gases such as ozone that shield the Earth's surface from lethal solar radiation. Recently a satellite monitoring the amount of solar

Randa Habib's Corner

A long-awaited decision

FOR THOSE of you who do not know it yet there are good news: The Amman Municipality has decided to install public toilets in the city. Yes, very soon, gentlemen will not have to stand against a wall, and workmen who feel the urge will not have to worry: there will be public toilets everywhere.

The mayor of Amman has declared that ten public toilets will be the gift that Amman will get every year and this will continue for ten years until we have 100 toilet units throughout the capital. This is an excellent initiative that we should all admire. Hotels will not have to put up with people rushing in and asking "where are the toilets please?", followed by the shop owners who from the first glance guess that the customer who has just come in asking about something is only wanting to know the whereabouts of the toilet and last but not of least, to benefit of this initiative are those who are living in side streets and who have not breathed fresh air for quite some time. They do not allow their children to play near the walls "because of the microbes you know", they tell you.

Yes, congratulations to the mayor for his decision to install public toilets. However, we wonder how nobody had thought of this excellent idea before.

radiation striking the upper atmosphere found fluctuations of 0.2 per cent in less than a week, leading scientists to think that changes in the sun itself may be a factor in climate change and weather patterns on Earth. Mapmakers and geologists have used orbiting instruments to map the Earth accurately and to measure its magnetic and gravitational anomalies, giving the new insight into the planet's interior composition. Because microwaves and lasers between the Earth and satellites can measure distances of thousands of kilometres with an accuracy of a few centimetres, geologists are for the first time able to track the slow push and pull of the Earth's crust that causes earthquakes.

The ability to look continuously at broad areas of the Earth's surface is of practical as well as scientific value. Monitoring the Earth for everything from weather forecasting and iceberg tracking to crop assessment and mineral exploration is known as "remote sensing." Remote sensing satellites are similar to those used by planetary scientists but different in the type, resolution and volume of data they generate. Some remote sensing uses have become commercially important, others are poised to become so, and still others are in the research phase.

The first and still most frequent use of remote sensing in terrestrial resource management is weather satellites. From far above the Earth's surface, cameras and other sensors provide meteorologists with broader pictures of weather movements than ever before available. Combined with the analysis from high-speed computers, meteorological satellites have made weather forecasting much less of a guessing game: today's 24-hour forecasts have the same accuracy — 84 per cent — as 12-hour forecasts did 15

years ago. With better prediction of severe storms such as hurricanes and typhoons, evacuation warnings can be issued and lives saved. For example, a cooperative typhoon-warning system being set up in East Asia should reduce the area's yearly storm damage of more than \$3 thousand million. The Philippines, annually hit by four or five typhoons boiling suddenly off the Pacific, will be a major beneficiary. Within 15 years, global satellite imagery should enable meteorologists to make five-day forecasts that are as accurate as 24-hour ones today, which would translate into \$5.5 thousand million of savings in agriculture and aviation in the United States alone.

Beyond weather satellites, a wide array of remote sensing satellites stand poised to move from the research and development phase to routine daily use. Known as LANDSATs, these satellites have proved useful to farmers, foresters, shippers, highway builders, coastal zone managers and mapmakers.

Remote sensing of living systems — crops, forests, grasslands, plankton and fisheries — could provide solid trend information on a global scale as well as having many uses in day-to-day resource management. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has used LANDSAT images of food-growing regions to improve harvests.

Mineral and petroleum explorers have also benefited from remote sensing. By studying satellite images of known mineral deposits and then looking for similar formations elsewhere, geologists have been able to locate commercially valuable deposits. Another useful application of remote sensing will be to monitor the reclamation of strip-mined land. — Dialogue, Washington.

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Richards leads West Indies to big score against Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (A.P.)—A world record one-day crowd was treated to a brilliant century by Viv Richards as the West Indies outgunned Australia in their World Series Cup clash at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) here Sunday.

The West Indians hit up 252 for the loss of six wickets from 50 overs after a slow start and Australia, in a desperate fightback, was all out for 226, 26 runs short, with one ball to be bowled.

It was a magnificent performance by the 1000-year-old West Indians, who, after six matches, took a comfortable five-point lead in the competition with 10 points.

Australia is in second position with five points followed by Pakistan with three.

For the 6,133 people who filled the huge MCG, the highlight of the day was the inspiring century by West Indian champion Richards.

The previous highest number to watch a one-day match was 4,360, present this time last year when Australia played England at the MCG.

The huge crowd was enthralled by Richards' performance as he steered his side to a match-winning position.

Richards' 100 came off only 106

deliveries in 116 minutes with 12 boundaries and one six.

He was well supported by in-form opener Desmond Haynes who made 64, who put on a partnership with Richards of 101 in only 58 minutes.

Australian captain Kim Hughes was not over despondent with his side's performance Sunday, following their victory over Pakistan here on Saturday.

"On the way they played today, I don't think anyone in the world could have beaten the West Indies," Hughes said.

"I thought Viv Richards was the difference between the two sides. He played some great shots. It was just marvellous."

"He was just too good for us today, and no matter where we placed our fieldsmen he'd just hit the ball elsewhere."

It was a welcome return to top run-getting form for Richards, named man of the match, who has been limited in scoring here this summer.

His highest previous score this

series was 53, also against Australia, in Melbourne on Jan. 8. West Indian captain Clive Lloyd was pleased with his side's showing which has assured them a place in the '84 finals in February.

But Lloyd admitted that the team had a few injury problems which would have to be sorted out before the clash with Pakistan in Adelaide on Saturday.

"Eldine Baptiste has a right shoulder injury and Wayne Daniel's ankle is not healing," Lloyd said.

"Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall should be okay but we will have to have a look at whether Roger Harper may play."

The West Indies overcame the Australian attack which Sunday lacked a regular fifth bowler.

On Saturday, Hughes used Allan Border and Kepler Wessels to bowl 10 overs with some success, but Sunday they were hampered around the ground by Richards and Haynes.

Hughes said that Australia sadly missed an all-rounder but there was no outstanding player in the Sheffield Shield competition.

"We've got to face it, we haven't got an all-rounder and we are just going to have to do with the best we've got," he said.

Sleepy Sarajevo shifts into higher gear for Winter Olympics

By Richard Balmforth
Reuters

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — On the new road that leads up mount Bjelasnica, a sports car carrying two pairs of skis and their owners swerves to avoid a herdsmen, ambling home with his beast.

Below, in Sarajevo, a short distance from one of the city's several mosques, a new discotheque, opened in the last few weeks, pulsates nightly to the latest western sounds.

Until a couple of months ago, Sarajevo railway station resembled in its earthenness something from the pages of a turn-of-the-century travel diary.

Now, to the plain bewilderment of locals, its entrance hall has been dismembered, with hard-hatted construction teams sawing and hammering throughout the night.

Contrasts are numerous as Sarajevo, by western standards a poor people's town, prepares to host the rich man's sporting feast, the 1984 Winter Olympic Games.

Few things are done quickly in Yugoslavia, a country that specialises in the 'storm-finish' in which the work of years is crammed into the last few weeks.

Sarajevo, set in a part of the country that even by national standards has a reputation for lethargy and sluggishness, is no exception.

With less than three weeks to go before the games open, the prevailing sound in Sarajevo is that of muffled hammering behind closed doors.

In the picturesque old part of town known as 'Bas Carsija', restaurateurs and boutique owners are giving a fresh lick of paint to their premises.

The cramped museum on the river Miljacka, that com-

memorates with a rather meagre collection of pictures the assassination of Austria's archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, has closed for an internal face-lift.

His death precipitated World War I — really the last time that Sarajevo made world headlines.

Local trinket sellers, anticipating big profits from 15,000 foreign tourists, a third of them American, are feverishly polishing up their copper and brass ware.

Other locals have cashed in on the pressure for tourist accommodation and rented out parts of their homes.

With two-bed flats in the city going for \$60 a night — half the average Yugoslav monthly salary — it's well worth their while.

In spite of its clearly strong Turkish influence, Sarajevo, with a largely Muslim population of 450,000, appears in places a modern city.

Many of its buildings are dark-windowed tenements, their worn facades strung with clotheslines.

But the city's skyline these days is composed not so much of minarets as of high-rise blocks of flats and modernistic skyscrapers with which the brash advertisements of western Olympic sponsors, such as Coca Cola and Japan's Mitsubishi, seem, at first glance, quite in keeping.

The impression, however, is deceptive and belies the moody, backward undercurrents of life here that have always made Sarajevo an improbable venue for an international sports spectacular.

Last year, the region seethed with dire warnings by the authorities that Iranian-style Muslim fundamentalism was taking root here.

This past Christmas, midnight mass at the city's Roman Catholic cathedral was cancelled for fear of

disruption by Muslim youths.

Typically many Sarajevans appear distinctly unmoved by the occasion, Olympic spirit or not. Cash in hand from renting out their homes, many are heading for sunny holidays abroad during the games.

The games have brought new buildings to Sarajevo such as the 8,500-capacity Zetra Olympic hall, venue for the ice hockey and figure skating contests.

They have also brought better supplies of just about everything to the shops.

Three weeks ago, Sarajevans found little meat around apart from largely unwanted Dalmatian sausage. Meat markets are now fully stocked throughout the day.

When the games are over, apartment blocks built to take 3,000 athletes and sports officials and 8,000 press will come on the market and help ease the local housing shortage.

But the biggest changes in life here are up in the Dinaric mountain range itself.

Until two years ago, the mountains were the home of bears, wolves, sheep and eagles, and a few scattered hillmen tending their livestock.

For Yugoslavia, the importance of mountains like Bjelasnica and Jahorina, where the men's and women's downhill ski events will be staged, was purely strategic.

The republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the centre of the country's defence stockpiles of military hardware.

They took on new significance when Yugoslavia won the winter games in 1978.

"We did not really know what we were letting ourselves in for," says Pavle Lukac, press relations manager for the games.

"Maybe if we had stopped and

thought we would have never taken the games on. But we acted impulsively and look what we have achieved."

Most of the 2,067-metre-high Bjelasnica, whose name means "the white mountain", was covered by pine forests two years ago. Virtually its only man-made installation was a weather station on the summit where a two-man team lived isolated for much of the year.

The constructors built a new asphalt road up the mountain and plan to operate a one-way road system round Bjelasnica during the games to prevent traffic snarl-ups.

They hacked down forest and carved out a route for the ski lift. They even had to 'raise' Bjelasnica itself.

Olympic standards require the drop for the men's downhill to be at least 800 metres. Seven metres short of requirements, they built a 10-metre concrete platform and set the start for the men's event at its top.

Construction of all the Olympic sites is complete. On the Olympic slopes, the alpine-style snack bars are open for business.

Last weekend, with a snow cover of 78 cm on Bjelasnica, troops were out once more stamping down the snow on the Olympic slopes.

There is growing confidence among officials that little, except the most unusual freak weather, can now rob the slopes of a good snow cover for the Olympics.

But for the Yugoslavs, the final gamble is whether post-Olympic Sarajevo will become an established winter tourist venue and a money-spinner for a badly indebted country or, ignored by western Europe, revert to its former wild state.

Shooting club to compete in Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Royal Shooting Club Prince Mohammad accepted the invitation by Egypt to Jordan to participate in the quadruple shooting championship which includes Iraq and Kuwait in addition to Egypt and Jordan. The championship, which will be preceded and followed by a joint training camp in preparation for Los Angeles Olympics, is due to be held in Cairo on Feb. 16.

Jordan's delegation will be composed of six marksmen, in addition to the coach and the Soviet trainer. Feb. 17th, has been fixed for free shooting while Feb. 18-24 will be for other kinds of shooting.

Jordan beats Bahrain

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Second Asian Squash Championship continued Sunday with the team events at the Sports City in Amman. The results of the days play were: Jordan beat Bahrain 3-0; Pakistan defeated Singapore 3-0; India trounced Sri Lanka 3-0 and Malaysia ousted Sri Lanka 3-0.

National polo team to play in U.K., W. Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Flocksterian Federation accepted the invitations by U.K. and West Germany to hold several polo matches there during July. The Jordanian team will travel to England on July 10th, and then to West Germany, according to the federation's secretary.

Meanwhile a U.S. polo team is due in Amman later this year. The polo match between the Jordanian team and the visiting U.S. polo team will be held on the new playground at Al Hussein Sports City.

Platini inspires Juventus: Zico nets twice for Udinese

ROMA (R) — Michel Platini lived up to his title as European Footballer of the year by masterminding two goals and scoring once as Italian first division leaders Juventus beat Pisa 3-1 Sunday.

Ebullient Frenchman Platini swept forward in the 12th minute to put a line pass through to Paolo Rossi, who shook all his markers and unleashed a shot which went in off a defender.

A breathtakingly accurate 40-metre pass from Platini 12 minutes later found Pole Zbigniew Boniek well placed to score

the Turin side's second goal. "Zibi" returned the compliment and the ball three minutes later for Platini to make it 3-0 with his 12th goal of the season — but not enough to keep up with Brazilian Zico.

The clash of four Brazilians — Zico and Edinho for Udinese, Livnor and Pedrinho for lowly Catania — was uneventful until Zico scored in the closing minutes and then bent in one of his famed free kicks to make him top marksman with 13 goals.

Florentina mounded fellow title contenders Torino 4-1 in a clash

dominated by Argentines on both sides.

Argentine Daniel Bertonio headed Fiorentina in front from a well placed free kick by Giancarlo Antognoni.

Under pressure from the home side, Torino turned the tables with a counter-attack which ended with their Argentine Patricio Hernandez equalising.

Florentina regained the lead when Bertonio set up Paolo Monelli for a header, and a parried shot from Monelli was netted by Bertonio to make it 3-1 early in the second half. Monelli scored the fourth, making a mockery of a Torino defence which had conceded only eight goals until Sunday.

Argentine Ramon Diaz led struggling Avellino to a 2-1 win over Ascoli when he made the first and scored the second.

League Champions Roma had another tough day, drawing 1-1 at home to Sampdoria, although the Genna side were without British stars Liam Brady and Trevor Francis.

Rainstorms set tough conditions for Monte Carlo Motor Rally

PARIS (R) — Rainstorms and high winds in many European countries set the scene for a demanding race towards the French Alps as the Monte Carlo Motor Rally got underway Sunday.

Some 200 cars roared off from eight European cities and towns on the first section to Aix-les-Bains in southern France, where they are scheduled to arrive at around 0930 local (0830 GMT) on Monday.

The competition for top honours is expected to be a repeat of last year's duel between West Germany's four-wheel-drive Audi Quattros and the Italian Lancias.

Overnight snowfalls in the Alps augured well for the Audi cars with their superb road-holding ability but officials said the snow could clear before the competitors reached the mountains.

Clear roads would favour the Lancias, who are seeking to repeat their double success of last year when West German star Walter Rohrl and the flying Finn Markku Alen took first and second place.

This year, though, Rohrl has switched to Audi, who also have

1983 World Rally Champion Hannu Mikkola of Finland in their team. Both men have won the event three times and the formidable Audi challenge is further boosted by Swedish star Stig Blomquist.

About 71 cars set off in driving rain from a Paris suburb Sunday while others left from Raasdonsk in the Netherlands, Bad Homburg in West Germany, Barcelona, Lausanne, London, Sestriere in Italy and Monte Carlo itself.

The length of the routes range from the Monte Carlo to Monte Carlo run of 1,070 kms to the longest from Bad Homburg which is 1,470 kms.

This year, though, Rohrl has switched to Audi, who also have

Austrians Kronbichler, Girardelli snatch spectacular slalom wins

VERBIER, Switzerland (R) — Anni Kronbichler of Austria turned in her best World Ski Cup performance of the season to win a special slalom event here Sunday.

Despite losing her rhythm just before the finish, Kronbichler swept across the line to record 45.14 seconds for her second leg and snatch victory from first leg leader Maria Eppler of West Germany by just 0.1 seconds.

Kronbichler recorded a combined time of one minute 30.07 seconds against Eppler's 1:31.07.

Switzerland's Erika Hess clocked a total time of 1:31.67 to take third place by 0.02 seconds ahead of Poland's Dorota Tlalka.

Kronbichler, 20, finished fifth and ninth respectively in slaloms at Bad Gastein and Maribor, Yugoslavia, last week.

She nearly threw away her advantage at the foot of the 59-gate second leg Sunday, losing control as the finish loomed. Afterwards she said: "I almost stood still. It must have cost me half a second. Thank God it turned out okay."

Hess won the combined standings, linking Sunday's slalom with Saturday's downhill to move into second place in the overall rankings behind Hannu Mikkola of Liechtenstein.

In Kitzbuehel, Austria, Austrian-born slalom star Girardelli, ruled out of next month's Sarajevo Olympic Games because he skis with a Luxembourg licence, moved closer to securing the World Cup slalom crown with a brilliant win in the prestigious Hahnekamm event on Sunday.

A superb second leg carried Girardelli, who clocked a combined time of one minute 38.24 seconds, to his second slalom success of the season ahead of Austria's Franz Gruber, the first leg leader — and Bojan Križaj of Yugoslavia.

And afterwards Girardelli said: "I'm absolutely delighted. This is probably the world's toughest slalom, as well as downhill course, and to win here really means something."

THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF DIPLOMATS

will hold a
BUFFET LUNCHEON
at

THE SHEPHERD HOTEL, JABAL AMMAN
on
Thursday 26 January

All members of the club, and new diplomats, and their spouses are welcome.
There will be a cash bar from 1:30 p.m. and the buffet will be served, free of charge, from 2:30 p.m.

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FURNISHED DELUXE GROUND FLOOR FLAT FOR RENT

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Center at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 24 and will last for 16 weeks. Two programs will be offered:

1. The intensive program in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week. Saturday — Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 100 per term.
2. The regular program in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30 — 7:10 Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 35 per term.

Those interested please call at the Language Center for registration between 21 January and 8 February 1984

مركز اللغة العربية

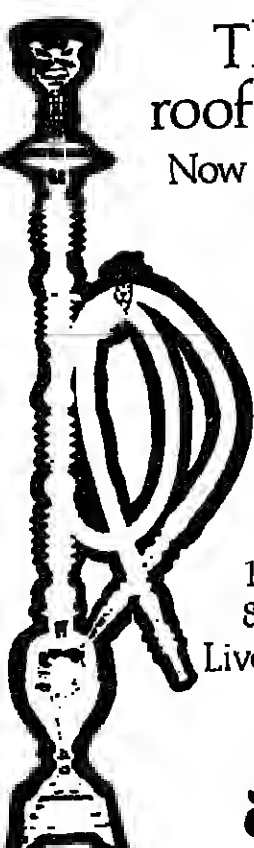
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Under the patronage of
H.E. Dr. Abdullah 'Oweidat
Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities
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invites you to the opening of the
Anthological Exhibition of the work of

PABLO PICASSO
(1881 - 1973)

Monday, January, 23, at 5.00 p.m.
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The exhibition will be on from January 24 to February 9.

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VACANCY

A Japanese construction company operating in Amman, is seeking an accountant. Candidates must have more than two years experience with foreign companies. English language is essential.

Contact tel: 667537 between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

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Ohio firms to switch nuclear plant to coal

CINCINNATI (R) — An almost-completed nuclear power plant in Ohio is to be converted to a coal-fired unit, 3 utility companies announced Saturday.

The nuclear plant, on which building started in 1973 and which has already cost \$1.5 billion, is 97 per cent complete.

Conversion to coal-firing will be the first such switch from nuclear fuel in the United States.

The announcement was made by 3 Ohio companies involved in the William H. Zimmer nuclear power station at Moscow, Ohio. Its construction has been suspended since November 1982 on orders from the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The commission suspended work because of structural quality problems.

Mr. William Dickhoner, president of Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co., managing partner of the project, said the decision to convert was based largely on studies indicating it would cost less to take that step than to complete construction.

Cincinnati Mayor Ann Bortz greeted the decision as "a victory for common sense."

Mr. Dickhoner would give no estimate of what the conversion would cost, saying the final decision has not been made on the generating capacity for the facility.

But he said best estimates were that it would take 7 years for the converted plant to become operational.

In addition to Cincinnati Gas and Electric, which has increased its share of ownership of the facility to 46.5 per cent, the other partners are Dayton Power and Light Co., with a 28.1 per cent share, and Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co., with 25.4 per cent.

Mr. Dickhoner said one of the best economic features of the new plant for Ohio was what it would be fuelled by more than 2 million tons of Ohio coal annually.

Arab petro-dollar funds sustain \$42 billion drop

KUWAIT (A.P.) — A noted economist on Saturday estimated the aggregate Arab surplus petrodollars at \$364 billion at the end of 1983.

Addressing an audience of bankers, scholars and oil company executives here, Mr. Osama Al Ansari said the overall Arab surplus sustained a drop of \$42 billion in 1982 and 1983 — \$6 billion in 1982 and \$36 billion in 1983.

Mr. Al Ansari, who is director general of the Arab Company for Trading Securities (ACTS), attributed the decline to a sharp drop in oil production and prices due to shrinking demand for crude oil in world markets.

"The fact that channels for investments are limited in the Arab World accounts for the outflow of Arab petro-dollars to Western industrialized countries," said Mr. Al Ansari.

He commented a number of Arab oil countries for investing their petro-dollars in equity shares and real estate in Western countries.

This, he said, spreads the "risks" of investments and minimizes the "eventuality of loss."

He cited Kuwait's example in buying the U.S. oil exploration group Santa Fe at \$2.5 billion. Kuwait also bought a 14 per cent stake in the West German Mercedes Benz Company and 10 per cent into Volkswagen Brasil.

"There is a great deal of sensitivity in the West to Arab money making inroads in these investments," he said without elaborating.

Mr. Al Ansari contended that Arab money has been "reluctant" to go into investments within the Arab World because of "lack of adequate investments legislations, mainly."

Other "factors" accounting for the outflow of Arab money to Western markets were, he said:

- The prevailing political circumstances.
- The investments scopes are "too limited" to absorb money of that size, tens or hundreds of billions of dollars.
- The unplanned influx of Arab money into Arab markets often precipitates injurious inflation.

Iceland lowers interest rates

REYK JAVIK, Iceland (A.P.) — The Central Bank of Iceland announced a 6 per cent drop in interest rates Saturday, bringing rates down to 21 per cent.

Interest rates were 47 per cent before the first drop on Sept. 21. Mr. Johannes Nordal, chairman of the bank's executive board, said this fourth drop in as many months was necessary to keep up with Iceland's decreasing rate of inflation. The National Economic Institute reported that the inflation rate is currently at 13 per cent, a sharp drop from the all-time high of 159 per cent last May.

Sabir share offering seen oversubscribed

BAHRAIN (R) — An offering of 2 million shares of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) has already been covered and the issue may be oversubscribed 2 or 3 times by the time the subscription period ends on Feb. 5, market sources said Sunday.

The offering, which started on Jan. 4, is being managed by the Riyadh-based Consulting Centre for Financing and Investment.

The sources said they expected applications to follow the usual pattern and increase towards the end of the subscription period.

Allocations, which will be biased in favour of the small applicants, will be made 45 days after the end of the subscription period, the sources said.

The shares, representing 20 per cent of the company, are being sold at 1,180 riyals (\$513) each, a 180-riyal (\$51) premium over their nominal value.

Each subscriber, allowed a maximum 1,000 shares, must put down 600 riyals (\$144) a share with his application and the rest will be called later in the year.

Some 1.8 million shares are being offered in Saudi Arabia and the rest to citizens of the other 5 Gulf Cooperation Council states, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The government plans eventually to sell 75 per cent of the company, formed in 1976 to develop industries based on the country's oil and mineral wealth.

Israeli strikes continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (A.P.) — The Israeli cabinet prepared to debate the 1984 budget proposal Sunday as thousands of workers continued strikes over wages heavily eroded by triple-digit inflation.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet is under heavy pressure to approve the 14.43 trillion shekel (\$21 billion) budget before Wednesday when a no-confidence vote over the economy is scheduled in parliament.

The office of cabinet spokesman Mr. Dan Meridor said the ministers spent nearly 4 hours discussing "other matters" and then recessed before taking up the budget, saying more clarifications were needed.

The "other matters" discussed were not specified.

Israel radio said cabinet members in Mr. Shamir's ruling Likud bloc remained in his office during the recess.

The government is reported to be working feverishly to muster votes to defeat the no-confidence motion by the opposition Labour Party later in the week.

The motion was presented last Monday over a government report that said one-half million Israelis live below the poverty level.

The budget figure proposed by a ministerial economics committee 2 weeks ago included controversial cuts averaging 9 per cent for each ministry. Some ministers reportedly were stalling on implementing the cuts.

The Israeli media said Defence Minister Moshe Arens is demanding the entire cabinet approve reductions in his budget, which would hit hard at the army.

Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer, who is recovering from a heart attack, has sought to postpone a decision on his ministry's budget, the Haaretz newspaper said.

The government uses about 700 shekels to the dollar in computing the 1.443-trillion shekel budget, although the current rate is about 118 shekels to the dollar.

Meanwhile, 3,500 engineers of Israel's aircraft industries joined thousands of other workers on strikes and slowdowns by walking out for 24 hours starting Sunday morning. The engineers are seeking a revision of their pay formulas, claiming the current system unfairly rewards lower-skilled workers more than engineers.

Municipal government and local government councils threatened walk out by the end of the week, protesting the lack of funds that kept them from paying thousands of workers' salaries in December.

Transfer of their budgets has been held up by a 3-week-old slowdown in the interior ministry which is in charge of distributing the money.

Israeli railroads remained closed by a week-old strike, reducing by one-half the country's lucrative phosphate exports that depend on the trains to reach Mediterranean seaports, the news media said.

Phosphate industry losing

Mr. Dan Yakir, director general of Negev Phosphates, said his company was losing about \$250,000 a day during the strike.

He estimated the phosphate industry as a whole was losing about \$1 million daily.

"We'll have to stop production soon because of lack of storage facilities," Mr. Yakir said. He said it would cost too much to use trucks instead of trains to haul the phosphates from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean.

Bank of England chief visits Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — The governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, arrived here from Kuwait Sunday on a tour of the Gulf area.

Officials said he was expected to have talks on mutual cooperation with the Bahrain Monetary Agency.

He had visited Saudi Arabia before going on to Kuwait.

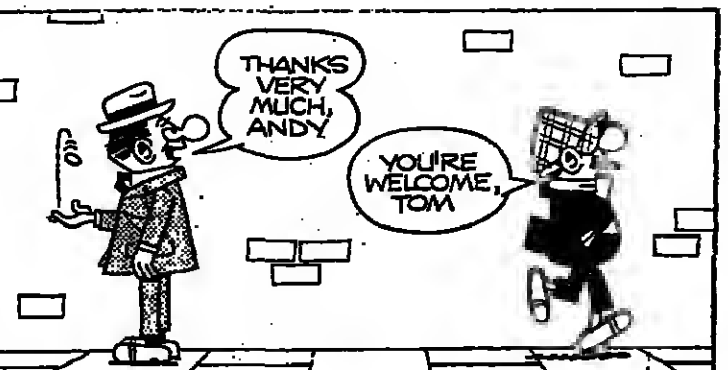
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Arab Land Bank rejects link with Syrian Jordanian Bank

AMMAN (R) — Egypt's Arab Land Bank has turned down a partnership with the Syrian Jordanian Bank, banking sources said Sunday.

Foreign banks operating in Jordan were told earlier this month to give Jordanians 51 per cent equity within 3 years.

The banking sources said the Jordanian government's offer to the Arab Land Bank of a partnership with the Syrian Jordanian Bank was turned down by the Egyptians to avoid problems with Syria.

The Syrian Jordanian Bank was established in 1980 with an authorized capital of 2 million dinars (\$5.4 million) and paid up capital of 1.6 million dinars (\$4.3 million).

The Syrian government held 51 per cent equity in the bank and the Central Bank of Jordan and the state-owned Jordanian Pension Fund the other 50 per cent.

The bank's original registration

was withdrawn in August 1982, however, after Syria for unspecified reasons refused to allow it to open a branch in Damascus, the sources said.

The sources said Jordan had agreed to compensate Syria for its share of the bank on the basis of the book value at the time registration was withdrawn, but this had still to be settled, the sources said.

The bank in the meantime has retained its name and continued normal commercial activity under a temporary Jordanian management.

But despite the fact Jordan regards the bank as Jordanian, the sources said, "the Egyptians just don't want to invite problems with the Syrians."

Major Chinese trading firm to diversify

HONG KONG (R) — China's major trading firm here is diversifying into supermarkets and electronics, anticipating a positive outcome soon to talks on this British colony's future, pro-Peking newspapers reported Sunday.

General Manager Zhang Jianhua said China Resources Co. would open a chain of 20 supermarkets over the next 2 years, according to interviews in the Chinese-language Wen Wei and Ta Kung newspapers.

The export-import firm recently funnelled \$23 million into conic investments, a local electronics manufacturer, through a subsidiary formed with the Bank of China.

The investment showed China Resources has full confidence in the future of Hong Kong, the papers said.

China and Britain are negotiating that future in Peking. A British lease on most of the land runs out in 1997, when China says it will recover title and control. The talks resume this week.

Mr. Zhang said the China Resources group would step up diversification during 1984, with a \$19 million cold storage project scheduled to start in October.

The first supermarket is to open the same month.

OPEC not likely to call meeting to revise quotas

CARACAS (R) — The oil exporter group OPEC is not likely to call a new meeting to revise its production quotas, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Designate Arturo Hernandez Grisanti was quoted Saturday as saying.

He said that if OPEC production quotas need adjusting it will be done under guidelines agreed at a meeting in London last March, the official Venezuelan news agency Venpres reported.

The possibility of calling an extraordinary ministers' meeting after OPEC's market monitoring committee finishes meeting in Vienna on Feb. 11 had been mentioned by outgoing energy and mines minister Mr. Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon.

In London, OPEC adopted a 17.5 million barrel per day quota and cut its benchmark price to \$29 dollars per barrel.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti has been named to head the energy ministry when a new Venezuelan government takes office on Feb. 2.

He forecast that the oil market would stay soft through the second quarter of 1984 and experience a slight upturn in the second half.

He said that although Venezuela can still meet an export target of 1.5 million barrels per day it will not try to place oil in the market if that exerts pressure on prices.

An increase in the price of Venezuela's refined products and the market outlook will enable Venezuela to hold its projected average export price of \$25.93 per barrel, but the government should nevertheless make prudent estimates of oil revenue, he said.

Sources at the energy and mines ministry said the price of some Venezuelan products would be increased on Monday.

Kuwaiti dinar weakens in active Gulf trading

BAHRAIN (R) — The Kuwaiti dinar, which has been declining gradually against the dollar over a number of months, weakened again Sunday in unusually active Sunday trading, dealers here and in Kuwait said.

They said the central bank adjusted its parity for the dinar to 0.29447 to the dollar from 0.29432 Saturday, amid some fairly large-scale conversions of dinars into dollars, the most notable of which appeared to have come from a Bahrain offshore bank.

They said the conversions had been encouraged by a sharp drop in Kuwaiti dinar interbank rates and expectations that the dollar would rise in foreign exchange trading Monday.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JAN. 23, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Start the week right by getting in touch with your various associates and letting them know you are willing to cooperate and coordinate your efforts with theirs.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to gain the good will of those you want to be associated with in the future and gain their support.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be very precise in handling all of your duties today and you can easily add to present income. Show affection for kin.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Ideal day to get into the recreations that you like the most and enjoy them in the company of good friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Doing something that will make your home more charming is wise today. Invite friends in and entertain.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Pay compliments to friends who are doing good things and boost their morale. You gain their added good will as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan how to make your home more charming and valuable at the same time. Take initial steps now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel dynamic today and should contact those you want to impress and get the right results. Safeguard your reputation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Now you can garner the data you need from one who has been recalcitrant in so doing before this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) By doing something special for your good friends, you make them happy and improve your social life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) An influential person can be of real assistance to you today if you contact early. Handle affairs wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A clever individual can give you suggestions that will help you to make big headway in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more exacting in business deals and get far better results. Arrive on time for any appointments you make.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can analyze well every aspect of any given situation and then arrive at the right decision or sure solution. Be sure to give a fine college training and include religious philosophy that will teach to be righteous.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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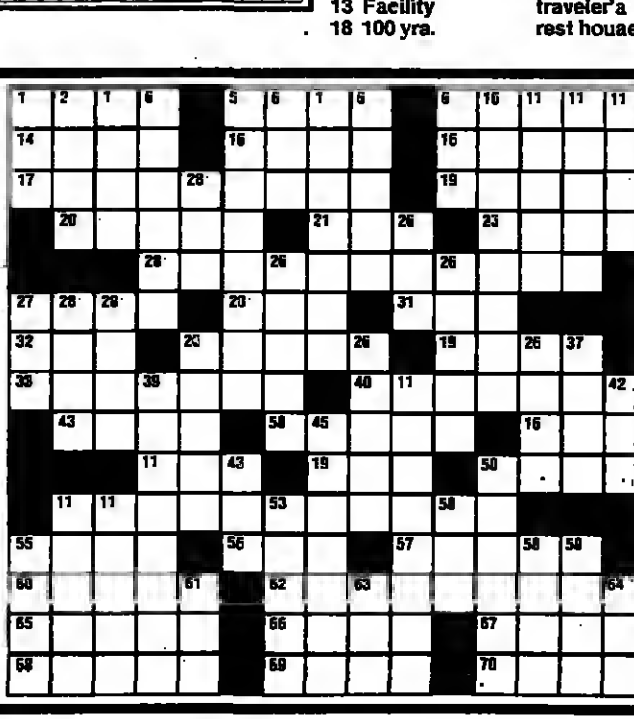
THE Daily Crossword

by Manny Miller

ACROSS	27 Shopping center	50 Way: abbr.	22 Extinct bird
1 Certain plane, for short	30 Together: prof	51 Faar Metal	25 Actor
5 Holy persons: abbr.	31 Orange	52 Do a talk or's	26 Buchholz
9 "Californians are — of people"	32 Lumber	60 Tennis tie	27 Family name prefix
14 Of the aar	33 Destroy documents	62 Backed away	28 Narve-cell process
15 Subject	35 Flying prefix	65 Dine at home	29 Lacosta
16 Pagat of movies	38 Transfers	66 Supremes, for ora	30 Organize
17 Profane	40 Monays in	67 Soda	34 Station
19 Taunts	43 Teenager's word of approval	68 Purlon	36 Actress
20 Hand-to-hand fight	44 Wigwag	69 Notices	37 Temple team
21 Dream clue letters	46 1051	70 Jonas, the physician	41 Part-tima athletes
23 Bump	47 Carry		42 Preside
24 "— Manda-lay"	49 Male animal		45 Shelves for brie-a-brac

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BEARD	PILOT	WHAFFLE
ELIMINATE	PILOT	WHAFFLE
ALLIAN	ALICES	ROBBIE
MUSIAN	THROPP	LOIS
SEISTITIS	LEICHTERN	
EWIE	SAB	ASHIE
PIESTER	LYTIA	TOW
OLLOD	ERE	CRENT
STIR	ELMIES	SPHERES
TOB	3	TEIN
STITION	TIONED	UPS
TIEMPERAMENTAL		
ALLIVE	NOLIA	TITRE
CHIEF	COIT	ELIE
CRIST	ETINA	DEEP



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THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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"I'm working on a short story. It's a tale of a mad, passionate love triangle between a man, his wife and their TV set!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUTEX

UNORM

YULTIG

CAPELA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "O O O O O" OF O O O O O (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABOUT INKED BLOODY INHALE
Answer: "What's wrong with eating this little of apple?" — "O.K., I'LL BITE"

Salvadorean army reports fierce fighting with rebels

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Government troops battled leftist guerrillas in eastern El Salvador Saturday on the second day of a sweep linked to a pacification campaign, a senior Salvadorean army officer said.

Colonel Domingo Monterrosa told Reuters that troops killed two guerrillas and wounded seven in fighting near the town of Jucupa in the eastern Usulután province. He gave no details of any army casualties.

Troops also clashed with guerrillas in the town of San Agustín in Usulután, he said.

Guerrilla Radio Venceremos reported fighting around San Agustín and accused the air force of bombing the town. There was no independent confirmation of the rebel report.

Col. Monterrosa was attending the opening by President Alfaro Magaña of a temporary bridge to

replace one destroyed by guerrillas three weeks ago.

The Cuscatlan suspension bridge was dynamited at the beginning of the year, severely restricting traffic flow to the eastern half of the country.

Military sources said the army drive, called "well-being for Usulután," was an extension of an operation launched last June in the neighbouring San Vicente province.

The operation, combining military operations with civic action projects and aimed at winning popular support, is loosely modelled on the "hearts and minds" campaign used by the U.S. army in

Vietnam.

It follows a string of large-scale guerrilla attacks which military sources said took the army by surprise.

Last month rebels overran an army garrison in northern El Salvador, killing more than 100 troops. That raid was followed by the destruction of the Cuscatlan suspension bridge.

In another development, an army spokesman said four national guardsmen were killed by guerrillas in an attack on a power station Saturday in the town of San Rafael Cedros, 30 kilometres east of here in the Cuscatlan province.

He said reinforcements were flown in and the rebels were beaten back after a five-hour battle. Guerrilla casualties were said to be "numerous" but the spokesman gave no details.

He added that rebels also killed a civil defence official in an attack on the eastern town of Santo Domingo.

U.S. tests satellite killer

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has tested its first anti-satellite weapon as part of a new race with the Soviet Union for control of space.

The U.S. Air Force has been developing its satellite killer since 1978 and expects it to be fully operational later this decade after spending \$1.4 billion.

Air force officials said the test Saturday was limited to an 18-foot 16x16-metre missile fired from an F-15 fighter aircraft. Later tests will include the weapon's final stage, a second missile designed to seek out and destroy Soviet satellites by impact.

The officials would not disclose whether the test in California was a success or when subsequent tests would be conducted, citing the project's near-total secrecy.

But they did not say a later test would include putting an object into orbit around the earth to serve as a satellite for the killer missile.

A main purpose of the new weapon is to destroy surveillance or spy satellites.

Arms control experts argued on the eve of the test that the U.S. should hold back lest the development trigger a new arms race with the Soviet Union.

They argued that while a satellite killer developed by the Soviet Union had been tested some 20 times, it was not yet operational, and Washington should seek an arms control pact with Moscow rather than test its own system.

But defence officials said Soviet surveillance satellites, with ability to monitor the deployment of U.S. and allied troops, were a threat and the U.S. had every right to try to knock them out of the sky.

100 Afghan rebels reported killed

NEW DELHI, India (A.P.) — More than 100 anti-Marxist guerrillas were reported slain in Afghanistan Saturday, and the Moscow-backed Kabul government claimed its forces recaptured a strategic eastern district bordering Pakistan.

Afghanistan's official radio also reported that two factions of a Muslim fundamentalist rebel organisation, the Hezbi Islami, clashed in southeastern Kandahar district over "booty" captured in a

raid. Thirteen activists belonging to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's group and seven from Mawlawi Yunus Khalis were reported slain.

Hekmatyar, Afghanistan's best-known insurgent leader, and Khalis operate from Peshawar, Pakistan.

"Servants of America were wiped out from Urugun district in spite of the loud propaganda about their invincibility," the newscast quoted Afghan Minister for Tribes and Nationalities, Sul-

aiman Layeq, as saying. Urugun, in Paktya province, has important rebel supply routes from Pakistan to the provinces of Wardak, near Kabul, Ghazni, Kandahar, Zabol and Oruzgan.

A massive quantity of weapons, some with U.S. and West German markings, were seized by Afghan government troops, the broadcast said. Among them were 13,702 anti-tank mines, 13 anti-aircraft guns and 47,000 rounds of anti-aircraft ammunition, it added.

U.S. negotiating with Angolan officials

CIDADE DE PRAIA, Cape Verde (A.P.) — A top U.S. diplomat is holding talks with Angolan officials on these West African islands in what could be an initiative aimed at breaking the deadlock over independence for South West Africa, or Namibia, by establishing U.S. recognition of Angola, diplomatic sources said here Saturday.

The sources, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition they remain anonymous, said U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern African Affairs Frank Wisner was heading the U.S. delegation to the negotiations, arranged in secrecy on this archipelago's remote island of Sao Vicente.

South African officials, including an unidentified general, were also present at the talks, the sources said, and were possibly drawing up a calendar for future talks with Angola, aimed at easing the conflict over Namibia.

Cape Verde State Radio on Saturday afternoon acknowledged in an official statement that secret talks were taking place on the islands. But the radio said it could not "break the seal of secrecy that is so important to the success of such negotiations."

The broadcast was the first official confirmation that talks were being held here, but it gave no details of the nations involved or questions under discussion. The sources said Mr. Wisner

had met with an Angolan delegation led by Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues. The talks would continue through the weekend before Mr. Wisner's departure for Lisbon early next week.

Calls to the U.S. embassy here went unanswered Saturday. But in Lisbon the U.S. embassy confirmed Mr. Wisner was expected there early next week. A spokesman refused to comment on the reported talks in Cape Verde.

Both the Angolan and South African governments have also declined to comment on the reports.

The United States is the only Western power that has not yet recognised the government of Angola.

Sino-British deal on Hong Kong reported

LONDON (A.P.) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has conceded in principle that China will have both sovereignty over Hong Kong and control of the administration when the British lease expires in 1997, the Sunday Times reported.

The more than 5 million people of the colony will no longer have any British protection after June 30, 1997, said the report headlined: "Thatcher hands Hong Kong to China."

Talks about the colony's future have been going on between Bri-

tain and China since 1979.

Chinese officials said late last year that China plans to leave the social and economic system unchanged and allow local Chinese to administer the territory as a capitalist enclave within socialist China. The talks recently have dealt with how Hong Kong's prosperity can be maintained after a Chinese takeover.

Optimism in Peking

PEKING (R) — Sino-British talks on the future of Hong Kong resumed here on Wednesday after a

seven-week break with indications of fresh momentum towards a settlement.

The last two-day session broke up on Dec. 8 with a hint of a breakthrough in a 15-month dialogue which has often appeared close to stalemate.

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang also told an Ottawa news conference last week he was optimistic about the chances of a negotiated settlement on the future of the British colony, most of which reverts to China in 1997 when Britain's lease expires.

Honduras denies U.S. helicopters routinely visited border with Nicaragua

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (A.P.) — The government Saturday issued a statement disputing a government minister who said U.S. pilots flew near the Nicaraguan border area more than once.

The Washington Post had quoted Carlos Handal, Honduran communications minister, as saying the crew of a U.S. helicopter shot down by Nicaraguan troops Jan. 11 was inspecting the construction of a border-area road.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Handal as saying it was "not the first inspection that they've made."

The helicopter went down between the towns of Las Trojes and Cienfuegos, just 200 yards (193 metres) inside the Honduran border with Nicaragua.

Guidelines for ongoing

Honduran-American military manoeuvres say U.S. soldiers must stay at least five miles (8 kilometres) from the border. Nicaragua is lighting some 4,000 U.S.-backed rebel exiles using bases in Honduras.

The Honduran government said Saturday that Jan. 11 was the first time personnel participating in joint U.S.-Honduran manoeuvres visited the border area.

"The government of Honduras has clearly determined that neither personnel nor helicopters of Big Pine have flown over or visited the Las Trojes-Cienfuegos area to inspect the construction of roads," a bulletin from the office of President Roberto Suazo Cordova said.

Officer loses command

A Honduran army colonel, who claimed he knew three days in

advance the flight plans of a U.S. army helicopter shot down near the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, will be removed from his command, a government source said.

Col. Danilo Ferrera Suazo, a military commander of the southeast part of Honduras, had been quoted by the Washington Post as saying he was advised Jan. 8 the helicopter intended to fly to the Honduran border town of Cienfuegos, en route to Aguacate Air Base in the mountains northeast of Tegucigalpa.

Norwegian Foreign Ministry official arrested for spying

OSLO, Norway (A.P.) — Police have arrested the deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry press office on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, authorities said. New reports called the case Norway's biggest spy scandal of the post-World War II years.

Arne Treholt, 41, who helped arrange a news conference for U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz here last week, was picked up Friday night at Oslo's Fornebu Airport. Chief Prosecutor Vigmar Florheim said in a Saturday statement.

Mr. Treholt was booked on a flight to Paris.

Foreign Minister Sverre Strøm and Justice Minister Mona Røkke told Norwegian State Radio Saturday they were shocked by the arrest but refused to comment further because the case is under investigation.

Mr. Treholt, a member of the left wing of the Labour Party, was appointed in December as assistant secretary of the Foreign Ministry's press office. He is in charge of press accreditation.

working under the chief of the office, Mr. Geir Grung.

As deputy press secretary, Mr. Treholt served as the ministry spokesman when Grung was away.

State radio said Mr. Treholt was being held without bail and would be formally arraigned in Oslo District Court Monday.

Before being named to the press post, Mr. Treholt was chief assistant to Jens Evensen, Norway's representative in the Law of the Sea Negotiations and Oslo's chief negotiator in talks with the Soviets to define the Soviet-Norwegian demarcation line in the Barents Sea.

Mr. Treholt was a chief organizer of the news conference held by Mr. Shultz when he stopped in Oslo last Thursday after attending the European Security Conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

Despite the connection with the Shultz visit, Mr. Treholt had no access to briefing papers or other documents from the secretary's talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Sverre Strøm, a U.S. diplomatic source said.

Gandhi accuses Washington of supporting dictatorships

NEW DELHI, India (A.P.) — America cultivates dictatorships around the world while displaying indifference and a double standard toward India, the world's largest democracy, says Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"They don't seem to be bothered about India," the veteran stateswoman said, describing in a weekend Associated Press interview the U.S. strategic view of her country.

Mrs. Gandhi, who has pursued traditionally close Indian relations with the Soviet Union, also said Moscow is currently reacting to a fear "of being encircled," and "that by itself creates tension, if you have a feeling like that."

Denying that India is dependent on arms from the Soviet Union, its major foreign supplier, she said: "When we need it and we get it on attractive terms, we take it, but it's not binding us in any way... We can buy it from any country, as we are now, but sometimes it does come more expensive from other countries." Mrs. Gandhi added, referring to current Indian moves to diversify with purchases from Britain, France and West Germany.

"I don't want to be sounding as if I am anti-U.S. because I am not at all," the 66-year-old prime minister said.

"I greatly admire much of what's being done there (U.S.), and I've many American friends," she continued. "But you see, the administration talks of democracy but actually whom does it help? The majority are not democratic. They help dictators of one kind or another."

Asked if by dictatorships she meant countries getting U.S. military aid like Pakistan, the Philippines and South Korea, Mrs. Gandhi agreed with this and added, "and in Africa also you know, Latin America and so on."

As a result she and several other government leaders have a frustrated feeling "that we're trying to keep our country democratic, but what do you get for it in terms of better relations with the Western democracies?" said Mrs. Gandhi, who is chairwoman of the 100-nation Non-Aligned Movement.

The Indian prime minister said: "I doubt very much" that her good personal rapport with President Ronald Reagan, whom she has met three times, could make much impact on improving U.S.-Indian relations which "I would say could be better."

She said her cordial relations both with Mr. Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are "entirely on a personal basis. From the point of view of policy, as you know, their views are entirely opposed to ours."

Threat from Pakistan

Restating her objections to modern U.S. arms for Pakistan, Mrs. Gandhi said: "In some areas, Pakistan is well ahead of us in weaponry, well ahead of a decade. I'm told... we can't possibly object to America... giving Pakistan what it is in need of, but we feel they are being armed to an extent which is well beyond their need... "They say it's because of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, but

the guns are pointing towards us and not to Afghanistan."

"And this has happened once before," she added, referring to the use of American arms by Pakistan against India in 1965 in the second of the three subcontinent wars.

"One hears" that the Pakistan military "is all for taking revenge, or something like that" against India, she said.

Mrs. Gandhi said a major problem in Indo-U.S. relations is the reduction of the American contribution to U.S.-and Western-dominated international credit institutions, because "it seems to be done in a way that hits India."

Asked if this was deliberate, she replied that "it hits us so we can't help feeling it. And of course, for instance, a double standard with regard to the IDA now that China is in, and therefore the amount available has to be divided so it's India's assistance that is cut."

IDA is the International Development Association. The low-interest, soft loan branch of the World Bank, which is to receive a 25 per cent cutback in the U.S. contribution to the development loans it provides to the world's poorest countries.

India recently asked for the first time for a loan from another international credit body, the Asian Development Bank, to which it had always been a donor, but "we were told you can't have a new person on the list, whereas they had admitted China on the other..." Mrs. Gandhi said. "We don't want China to feel we are standing in their way or rivaling them. But this sort of thing doesn't

create a very good impression."

She said when India purchases Soviet weapons, planes and warships, "it's for a very good reason that either because we pay in (Indian) rupees, it's easier for us, or because they're willing to make things here and sometimes willing to buy them back... we're not at all dependent."

India's security threatened

Elaborating on her remark in a recent speech that India's security is threatened as never before, Mrs. Gandhi said: "Well, we're surrounded — all around us, aren't we? — besides rival Pakistan, she continued, "the whole Indian Ocean is an area of tension. There are problems in all the neighbouring countries, some of which will certainly get help from abroad."

Mrs. Gandhi was asked if such tensions are aggravated by the Soviet Union which, according to Western estimates, has more than 100,000 troops in nearby Afghanistan.

Her reply was: "Well, the Soviet Union, they've got their policies and they've got their strategies. But I don't feel that it is in their interests — as they see their interests — that tension should grow here. They certainly would not like Western influence in a country like Afghanistan, and that's why they're there..."

Mrs. Gandhi added, however, that in the 1920's the Soviets "said they were being encircled. Then came detente and... a general relaxation. Now they again feel they're being encircled. That by itself creates tension if you have a

feeling like that."

Mrs. Gandhi was interviewed in the wake of a flare up of violence last week in Kashmir state, ruled by a regional opposition party, in which several members of her Congress (I) Party were killed in battles with state police and rival groups. The Congress said nine of its people perished while the state government said four.

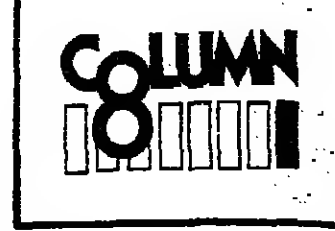
She described her party workers' resort to blockade and strike tactics as a reaction to injustice and attacks by others and disassociated herself from any resort to violence which Congress critics said was aimed at toppling the state government of Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah.

"Here people are being singled out for attack, so they react, but I don't think any of our people have indulged in violence," Mrs. Gandhi said.

"Now the people who are being killed are our people, and nobody else has been killed," she continued.

It was in desperation that Congress workers staged protests and blockades in Kashmir, Mrs. Gandhi said. "I might not have given that advice" for such tactics, she said. "But they feel you are sitting in Delhi, you are not protecting us. We are getting beaten up... so we have to protect ourselves."

"Our party is not like a Communist Party which is highly disciplined... we just don't have that kind of structure," Mrs. Gandhi said. "Everybody decides more or less what they think is good for them and they say, 'what do you know about the situation sitting in Delhi?'"



Iranian TV starts broadcasts in English

LONDON (R) — The first English-language television broadcast in Iran since the 1979 revolution went on the air Saturday, the National News Agency IRNA reported. The agency, received in London, said the 15-minute news bulletin in English would be broadcast "on all working days" from 4 p.m. (1230 GMT). "The highlights of the news about domestic, Islamic and world affairs will be broadcast nationwide and for the countries of the Gulf region," IRNA said.

Library gets books 80 years overdue

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Lynn Barthel went to the library to return some books — almost 80 years late. She found the three books, which were borrowed by her grandmother between 1905 and 1918, while scanning through a book case at her home in San Rafael, north of San Francisco. In theory times of more than 55,000 were payable, but the library did not press the point and instead is putting the books on special display. They are a study of Roman history, a volume of Shakespeare, and an adventure novel called the Cliff Climbers.

Saturn's rings thinner than thought

PALO ALTO, California (R) — The dozen rings around the planet Saturn are much thinner than was previously thought, with one no more than 10 yards (metres) thick, two scientists said. The rings were estimated from earth-based observations to be about 4.6 miles (one kilometre) thick, but their thickness varies from between 10 and 50 yards, a Stanford University statement quoted the scientists as saying. Scientists Leonard Tyler and Howard Zebker studied data sent by the Voyager 1 spacecraft which flew past Saturn's rings in November 1980. The rings appear to be composed of billions of chunks of ice, ranging in size from tiny marbles to 30-foot (10 metre) wide pieces.

Psychologist for AIDS victims dies

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A psychologist who worked with people suffering from AIDS has died of an illness linked to the same disease, Paul Dague, a homosexual, died of Kaposi's Sarcoma, a type of skin cancer often associated with AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — which breaks down the body's immune system, exposing the victim to lethal infections. According to a spokesman for the San Francisco hospital where he worked, Mr. Dague counselled AIDS patients but did not contract his fatal illness as a result of working with them. More than 3,000 people in the United States have contracted AIDS, which affects mainly homosexuals, haemophiliacs and Haitians.

Blues singer Jackie Wilson dies

MT. HOLLY, New Jersey (R) — Rhythm and blues singer Jackie Wilson, whose hits included "Lonely Teardrops" and "Higher and Higher," died Saturday at the age of 49, a hospital spokesman said. The cause of death was not disclosed at the request of Wilson's family, the spokesman said. The singer entered hospital on Jan. 8, Wilson had battled back from a coma he lapsed into in 1975 following a heart attack suffered while performing in a New Jersey nightclub.

2 trains 'lost' in Scottish blizzards

GLASGOW, Scotland (A.P.) — Two trains were "lost" in blizzards sweeping the Scottish highlands early Sunday and four more were stuck in snowdrifts, state-run British Rail said. About 2,000 people were isolated in the eastern highlands at the Glenleslie ski resort, northwest of Perth, and almost every road across the border to England was blocked by snow, police said. The bad weather interfered with communication systems installed on Scottish trains, after one was lost for a time in a snowstorm six years ago.

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